THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ALL SAINTS, STRANTON

England & Wales · Charity number 1134753

Details

Other names	STRANTON PCC
Status	Registered
Legal form	Previously excepted
Registered	2010-03-10
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	57 Claremont Drive Hartlepool TS26 9PE
Phone	01429 894006
Email	admin@stranton-church.org.uk
Website	www.stranton-church.org.uk

Activities

Objects: Promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church.

Activities: All Saints Stranton PCC maintains local parish activities of the Church of England. Main servcies are at the Church, venues in the Stranton area of town and the St Matthews Community Centre. Sunday worship is in the Evangelical tradition with formal and informal (Lighthouse and Messy Church) expressions of faith. Outreach includes Youth work, Schools, town-wide, and overseas mission links.

Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Organisations, Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services
- **What:** Religious Activities
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

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Geography

- **Area of benefit:** UNDEFINED. IN PRACTICE, LOCAL
- Hartlepool

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£245,707	£306,931	-	-
2023-12-31	£189,011	£187,575	-	-
2022-12-31	£247,140	£241,945	-	-
2021-12-31	£266,057	£264,243	-	-
2020-12-31	£174,196	£168,508	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
ANGELA CRAIG		2013-10-15
CHERYL JANE MILLS		
DAVID HOUSE		2016-04-17
DIANE GREENWOOD		2011-10-30
FRANK ANDREW ROGERS		
JACQUELINE ANN ROGERS		
Kate Lawson		2022-04-24
MARY TONES		2016-04-17
MAUREEN ANDERSON		2013-10-14
PETER ANDERSON		2016-04-17
Rev Claire Mead		2025-06-29

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England & Wales - Charity number 1134753

Accounts

ALL SAINTS, STRANTON CHURCH
HARTLEPOOL

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2024



Rooted in God's love,
Growing together with Jesus,
Branching out in the power of the Spirit.

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Vicar's Report for Stranton Church 2024

2024 has been a very eventful year for Stranton Church, the Central Hartlepool Group and for the Church of England, both on a national and diocesan level. It has given us a lot to be thankful for, but also lots to reflect on and perhaps be challenged by too. Sadly we have said goodbye to a number of our dear friends over the course of 2024 including Arthur Moore, Doreen Lathan, Pamela Hutchinson, and Maureen Mitchell.

As always, there are so many people who are and have been involved in so many different aspects of church life here at Stranton that without all of you, our church would not continue to survive or thrive. So, I want to begin by saying how truly thankful I am for the love and support shown to me, and to all who have stepped out in service of our parish and across the wider group, over the last year, especially with so much going on. A particular thank you to Revd Andrew, Revd Kevin, and Revd Tony; to Mary and Linda – LLMs in the Group; to Angela, Rohan (to April 24) and Peter (from April 24) as churchwardens; David, our treasurer; Andrew, our Lay Vice Chair; Maureen our PCC Secretary; and Trish, our Parish Administrator, all of whom have helped keep me on track over the last year. But to all of you, as well, however you serve our church and community – thank you!

We began 2024 by starting to have a closer look at the Prayers of Love and Faith, what they are, and what that might mean for us as a parish church, and what it could mean for the wider Church of England too. Much is still to unfold regarding some of this, but I was very grateful for all those who attended the Lent course last year as we explored the Living in Love and Faith material. This proved very challenging for some, particularly here at Stranton, but I was thankful that after much prayer and deliberation, the PCC voted in favour of adopting the Prayers of Love and Faith, should we be approached by any couples wanting to acknowledge their love and commitment for one another in the church. Sadly, the challenge of this proved a little too much for a small number of our congregation, who chose to leave our church and go to worship elsewhere.

In February we said farewell to Bishop Paul, as he retired as our Diocesan Bishop. We also said farewell to Archdeacon Bob, as he took up his role as the Dean of Guildford Cathedral (and we wish him all the very best in this new role).

In April, three people from across the Group were confirmed at the Deanery Confirmation service (held this year in Hart). It was lovely to see people grow in their journey of faith, and especially lovely for me to see my son Daniel, among those confirmed. If confirmation is something you would like to explore then please do come and have a chat with me and we can explore this together.

We took the decision to stop Youth Fellowship on a Sunday Evening and move this into the main Sunday Service, welcoming Rebecca Bell onto the team leading activities for our Young People, in the Choir Vestry, while the children continued to meet in the Fulthorpe Chapel. We continue to pray for more children, young people, and young families to come and join our congregation, as well as more people to help lead our children and youth ministries.

In September we welcomed Becky and Patrick into the Group as Becky was licensed as Priest in Charge of St Aidan and St Columba (serving as I do, across the Central Group), Little did we know at the time that we would be appointing {Patrick into the role of Mission Enabler within our Group Mission Project later in the year.

We also had six members of our congregation undertake the Wings for Worship course in September and October 2024 – Rebecca Bell, Kate Lawson, Andrew & Jacqui Rogers, Pam Stockton, and Jordan Thornhill. The Wings for Worship course helps equip people to assist in our services, leading Services of the Word and preaching up to 6 times a year too, that is, of course, if they choose to serve in this way. For some, the Wings for Worship course, helps them in roles that they currently undertake, such as taking home communions out to members of our church, leading home groups, and so on. Hopefully we'll start to see some of them getting more involved in our Sunday Services, and perhaps even exploring whether or not God is calling them to something more. If you would be interested in doing this, or any of the other courses that the diocese has on offer, then please do come and speak to me.

In the wider Church of England, we have seen the resignation of Justin Welby, as Archbishop of Canterbury, as a result of revelations around safeguarding failings across all levels of the wider church. It's something which was very difficult to read about, but has had the effect of reminding us that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. Here, I want to take the opportunity to thank Peter Hart for his service over many years as our Parish Safeguarding Officer. As Peter's other responsibilities meant he became less and less visible within the parish, it was clear to Peter and myself that we needed someone else to take up the mantle. And so we welcome Jacqui Rogers into the role (starting in early 2025). It's important that we have a PSO who is active within the church, easily recognisable, and committed to improving our Safeguarding within the Parish. During 2025, Jacqui and myself will be working together with the diocese to ensure our policies and processes are where they should be, especially when it comes to recruiting volunteers into roles within the church – a process designed to protect the most vulnerable in our communities, to protect the church, and to protect you, the volunteer, in the roles that you undertake.

During 2024, the PCC reviewed some of its governance procedures, updating the PCC Standing Orders, to bring clarity to a number of areas. The PCC also worked with St Matthew's Committee to review our working practices, in line with Charity Commission rules, to ensure we have a clearer idea of what St Matthew's Committee can undertake on behalf of the church, and where the PCC needs to be involved, and this will see some small changes being implemented in 2025 as we seek to work together to make some necessary repairs to our Community Centre, and give it a new lease of life.

Over the course of 2025 and beyond, we have much to look forward to. Stranton Church can trace its origins back to somewhere between the years 1120 and 1129. That means we are right in the middle of the window for our 900th anniversary, which we are hoping to begin building towards a big celebration in 2026. We are looking into renewing our vision for our church, and our community, asking questions around who we are, and who God wants us to be, as we seek to grow in relationship with him, go deeper in our faith, and reach out to those around us. We will also be looking at how we do church, and how we might want to do that differently – our worship, our service styles, whether we want or need to reorder the church to increase the adaptability and accessibility of our church building. These are questions we'll be asking, praying into, and seeking answers to, as we discern God's will for us in this coming period.

Above all, I continue to pray for the future of our church here in Hartlepool, for growth – both in numbers and in our depth of relationship and faith. I pray that God will equip each and everyone of us to serve His church in the way that He wants us to serve – reaching out into the community with the gifts and skills He gives us, asking Lord Jesus to show us his way.

In Grace and Peace,

Revd John (Priest in Charge)

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

All Saints, Stranton Church is situated in Church Row, Hartlepool TS24 7QT. It is part of the Diocese of Durham within the Church of England. The correspondence address is Stranton Church Office, St Matthew's Community Centre, Arncliffe Gardens Entrance, Hartlepool TS26 9JF.

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a charity excepted from registration with the Charity Commission

PCC members who have served from 1st January 2024 until the date this report was approved are:

Priest in Charge:	The Rev'd John Bell *(ex-officio)*	Chairperson
Reader:	Mary Tones *(ex-officio)*	
Wardens:	Mrs Angela Craig	
	Mr Peter Anderson	

Representatives on the Deanery Synod:

Mr Andrew Rogers	
Mr Ken Shepherd	

Elected members:

Mrs Maureen Anderson	Secretary
Mr Paul Anderson	
Mr David Craig	Treasurer
Mrs Diane Greenwood	
Mr David House	
Miss Kate Lawson	
Mrs Cheryl Mills	
Mrs Jacqui Rogers	
Mr Jordan Thornhill	from 28.04.2024
Mrs Mary Tones	

The full PCC met eight times during the year with an average level of attendance of 71%. Committees met between meetings and minutes of their deliberations were received by the full PCC and discussed where necessary.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All Church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

ELECTORAL ROLL

This year, 2025, was when a new Electoral Roll has to be produced, the previous roll being closed.

All those on the previous Electoral Roll were sent a letter explaining the creation of a new Roll and how to complete a new application form.

The new Electoral Roll is now complete and displayed in Church.

The number on the new Roll is 54.

Ken Shepherd
Electoral Roll Officer

FINANCE REPORT

The Annual Accounts and report of the independent examiner are set out in pages 1-10 of the attached financial statements.

In 2024 we incurred a deficit on (unrestricted) General Fund of £4,940 and for St Matthews Community Centre a deficit (unrestricted) of £5,051, a total operating deficit of £9,991 (2023 – deficit £4014), that included the effects of some otherwise unfunded work on our major project for restoration of tower stonework and Clock faces.

In connection with the Tower project, an unrestricted bequest from the estate of the late RM Potter met the essential cost of the Tower Clock faces and hands restoration. On behalf of the Trustees (PCC) I acknowledge with a deep sense of gratitude not only this generous gift from that long-standing member of our congregation, but also the contributions of the various grant – making organisations listed in the Accounts whose support made the project not only possible but a success. The balance of cost was met by drawing down £56,939 from both capital and accumulated revenue reserves from our Custodian trust funds, leading to a one- off deficit on restricted funds of £51,495.

The deficit for St Matthew's Community Centre was due principally to a spike in heating costs last year, plus costly repairs including asbestos removal, whilst income was static.

The Central Hartlepool Group of Parishes mission project which we host continues to operate as a "Pass through" of funding from the Diocese: it is a restricted fund - see accounts note 10. A Diocesan "pass through" capital grant was made to St Aidans Church but is excluded from these accounts as the amounts are recognised in St Aidans Accounts.

These accounts also show that:

- We continued to receive generous regular and sustained financial support from committed members, including Gift Aid tax reclaims despite a reduction in income following some deaths and changes in personal circumstances.
- We met our requested and agreed Parish share payments to the Diocese in full.
- We maintained our support for CMS partners at the same level as in 2023.
- We continue our commitment to serving our local Community through the St Matthews Community Centre.

In presenting these accounts I also acknowledge the dedicated contributions made by many volunteers in providing freely of their time gifts and resources to the work of our Church. In financial management, we are blessed to have the support of a team of regular Cash Counters and our PCC Secretary as assistant treasurer and finance lead for the Community Centre: also to Andrew Rogers our PCC Lay Chair who is involved in supporting online banking controls, and everyone on the Building and Finance Subcommittee who contributed to the success of the Tower project, and to our accounts independent examiner Clive Rathbone

David Craig MA (Cantab) ACA: Hon Treasurer.

BUILDING AND FABRIC OF THE CHURCH

Thank you to everyone who, in the past year has in so many ways helped our Church and Community in Christian service. As Churchwardens we acknowledge and give thanks for the time and gifts dedicated by members in serving at Church and St Matthews Community Centre - practical tasks like providing refreshments, gardening, seasonal decorations, minor repairs, cleaning and maintenance, support for arranging and ordering services, leading worship and children's activities, reading, praying and meeting for various committees : a big 'Thank you' from the Churchwardens particularly to Rohan Wanduragala and David House our assisting churchwardens for their continued help and support.

Thanks to all who have taken up roles with leading and developing our young people and the support given to this by Jordan, Mary, Hayley (for the Group "Mission project"), Kate and other helpers with our young people.

Buildings:

- The major focus in 2024 was restoration of substantial parts of the Tower stonework and refurbishment of the clock hands and faces. We were assisted in this with the application of a generous bequest from the estate of the late Dick Potter, which enabled us to re-gild the tower clock hands and faces. The finance and building committee took a lead from January onwards in project management grant, applications and decision making that enabled the work to be completed just in time for Christmas, and very close to original budget.
- Routine Inspections/servicing were completed as required for clock, central heating, fire extinguisher and intruder alarm systems.
- Periodic fixed wire testing in Church is now due and will be carried out in 2025.
- The Church Office was moved internally into the ASDA room at St Matthews Community Centre providing better usable space and meeting amenities, and better broadband coverage is now in place:
- There is a considerable backlog of maintenance in the St Matthews Community Centre which the Churchwardens and PCC will support the Committee in addressing.
- An inspection of articles (communion plate, furniture and equipment) belonging to the church (terrier) has been done (May 2025) .

- Minor maintenance tasks including gutter and fall pipe checks and path cleaning are carried out as required and in accordance with a routine maintenance schedule recorded in the Church Logbook.
- Church yard and flower borders: Our thanks to the Council for maintaining the church grounds and rose beds and checking on safety of gravestones, and grass cutting.
- Thanks go to Camerons Brewery for their co-operation in managing our shared car parking, and in keeping a weather eye on our security.
- Thanks also to Pam Stockton for looking after the flower beds that line our churchyard path.

Health and safety report

Health and Safety Audit of the church was carried out most recently in May 2025. The following matters are noted from that inspection:

- The tower ladder and hatch for roof access do not meet current safety regulations for working at height: this area is not accessible to the public: restricted area and hard hat warning signs are in place.
- The larger expansion tank fitted to the Central Heating system has significantly reduced over spill and wet and slippery conditions at the boiler house steps; the steps to the boiler house do not have a handrail, but this is not a public area.
- The redundant basement boiler at St Matthews Community Centre has been cleared in line with asbestos removal regulations.

No new hazards were found.

Angela Craig, Peter Anderson
Churchwardens

DEANERY SYNOD REPORT

The Synod met twice during 2024, in February and November. The venue changes for each Synod as we try to visit all areas of the Deanery. The February Synod, for example, was held at St Luke's; while the November event was at St Oswald's.

The format is similar to other meetings, starting with prayer, apologies for absence, minutes of the previous meeting etc. Then follows either a guest speaker or a discussion of current topics of interest.

During the February Synod we discussed the Vacancy in See process. At the time the Diocesan Profile was being written, we all agreed this was not an easy task. Area Dean Janet shared with us +Paul's emotional address to the clergy grieving over the lack of children and young people in churches today. There were some bright spots in the Deanery, Hart's 3@4 and Stranton's Messy Church were still going strong, but there was still much to achieve.

Janet's also keen to include a section not just with parish news but also "we tried this" to share experiences and initiatives. Some events included Holy Trinity's Lent Course being a Lecto Divina, Hart & Elwick holding a Time and Space reflective time and the Central Group's discussions around Living in Love and Faith.

For the November Synod, we were due to have Amy Burns from Cuthbert House Diocesan Transformation Team to come to talk to us, but unfortunately she had to cancel due to ill health. So we spent some time on reporting feedback for the recent Diocesan Synod with an emphasis on safeguarding that had been planned before the publication of the Makin Review and its consequent fall out. So the timing was rather apposite.

Following this discussions took place around the topics of "What do we not have?" "What inspires new members?" and "why do we worship?"

The Deanery Synod continues to be a valuable space where information can be disseminated, both up and down, along with being a non-threatening event where new ideas can be discussed.

Andrew Rogers

SAFEGUARDING - CHILD AND VUNERABLE ADULT PROTECTION

During 2024, the national church has been rocked by a number of safeguarding issues that have come out in various independent reports. Unfortunately, this led to the resignation of the Archbishop of Canterbury, reiterating the point that s*afeguarding is everybody's responsibility!*

Throughout the year, time has been invested in trying to keep our Parish Safeguarding Dashboard up to date and populating some of the additional details, as well as ensuring all training is up to date. The dashboard is a very useful multi-tiered tool which helps us to understand those areas that need some additional consideration and those where we have everything in order. As always with the nature of this type of tool, there will always be some areas where further updating is needed but it is proving to be a very helpful resource.

Over the course of 2024, I have continued to work with the diocese and with Peter Hart in ensuring our Safeguarding policies and processes are both up to date and being effectively implemented, especially in the area of Safer Recruitment, where we are ensuring that anyone recruited to any role within the church has the appropriate paperwork in place for this. Myself and Peter, alongside the Diocesan Team have continued to manage any safeguarding incidents and concerns as they have arisen throughout the year, and I have invested time speaking to people as possible replacements for Peter Hart, who was happy to remain in the role until someone else was found. I am glad to report that at the beginning of 2025, I was approached by Jacqui Rogers, who, having given it a lot of thought and consideration, agreed to take on the role, and was subsequently appointed by the PCC in early 2025.

With that in mind, I'd like to extend my grateful thanks to Peter for all the work he did as our Safeguarding Officer in 2024 (and for many years prior to that), and to Jacqui, for being willing to step into the role as a visible presence within our church community.

As ever, we can't respond to any concerns if we don't know about them, so if you see or hear anything which gives you cause for concern, please contact the Parish Safeguarding Officer, Jacqui Rogers, myself, or the Diocesan Safeguarding Officer, Beth Miller - contact details are on the noticeboard in church and on our notice sheets.

Revd John

GATHERED WORSHIP IN STRANTON PARISH

There is a regular pattern of worship services across the parish, both weekly and monthly. The services are held in Church and St Matthew's Hall. Each service has its own characteristics. We hope and pray that there is something for those who have been part of a worshipping community for a long time and those attending for the first time. The pattern is summarised as follows –

Stranton Church

Sundays

9:00	Holy Communion	A quiet said service using traditional liturgy
11:00	Morning Worship Holy Communion Lighthouse Service (provision for all ages)	Each Sunday has a different characteristic. Generally the services are relaxed and welcoming including a mix of contemporary music and hymns. 1st and 3rd Sundays include communion 4th Sunday, Lighthouse is a good service to try if you are new to church, it includes welcomes for families wanting baptism.

St Matthew's Community Centre

4:00 second Sunday of month	Messy Church	A service for families based around craft, story and sharing tea together
10:00 Wednesday	Holy Communion	A said midweek communion in a more accessible venue.

WORSHIP TEAM

While still playing an important role in our services, the worship team is smaller than in previous years. Lots of factors have played a part in this, and it's part of the ebb and flow of this type of role in the church. I'm there most weeks and I've been joined by a good mixture of people, including Sophie, Lorelai, Luke, and, occasionally, Mary and David.

Despite reduced numbers, I do think the worship is trying to branch out more in the church. We're soon to have two Worship 24/7 events in the church and we're actively trying to make the worship more engaging for people on a Sunday morning. Lorelai has grown in confidence lots over the past year, and it's been great to see how much she's developed.

My hope for the next year is that we see renewed numbers in church and that the worship can connect with those that experience it. We've introduced Waymaker this year, and I think we need to cling to the bridge "Even when I don't see it, you're working" - it's seemed quiet at times, but that doesn't mean that something isn't stirring under the surface!

Jordan Thornhill

CENTRAL HARTLEPOOL GROUP MISSION TEAM

It has been a busy and fruitful year for the project. Emma Cain moved onto pastures new, we wish her well.

With regard to children and families across the group, the work continues to grow. There are the 2 weekly school RE Clubs at Jesmond Garden Primary and Stranton Primary Schools as well as regular assemblies taken at St Aidan's, Ward Jackson, Jesmond Garden and Rift House Primary School. In addition as requested there have been Harvest, Christmas, and Easter Celebrations in church for Jesmond Garden and Stranton Primary Schools.

At Christmas we held the second Christmas Tree Festival at St Columba's. Over 100 people came during the 2 days it was open. We were able to provide 60 Christmas hampers for families in need.

Toddler's continues to be held during term time on a Tuesday morning at St Matthew's Community Centre. We would welcome more volunteers to help with the snack or setting up the hall. Please get in touch with Patrick or myself if you are interested.

In association with Hartlepool Council we have run a 4 day Easter holiday Club and an 8 day Summer holiday Club for needy families. They not only have the opportunity to do numerous crafts and games but also to hear the Easter Story and stories about Jesus. So they learn something of the gospel they might not otherwise have the opportunity to do.

Most recently a new weekly initiative started in March called 'The Fireplace' at St Luke's. It is early days yet, however the aim is to reach out to families in the local community on Friday afternoons/evenings by providing a weekly Faith Café Craft drop in and a monthly Faith Movie night. You can look on The Communities of Hope Facebook page for more details.

In summary there is a lot going on. As usual my sincere thanks to all the volunteers who help with this valuable outreach, giving of their time and prayers. Without them it couldn't happen.

Hayley Liversidge, Communities Children and Families Worker

MESSY CHURCH

Messy Church for families is on the second Sunday of the month at 4-5.30pm in St Matthew's Hall (except for December when we have a Messy Christingle Service in church.) The families who attend are a mix of those who attend the 11am service at Stranton, those who only attend Messy church and those who are invited to attend a service prior to a Welcome or Baptism of children. Attendance varies between thirty to forty plus people in total, some families have been attending for several years and there is always potential for developing deeper relationships and growth with support.

We play table games until everyone has arrived, then we tell a Bible story, say a prayer and sing a song. After this there are activities and crafts to complete based on the story, before we have a scrumptious tea together, provided by Maureen and Peter. This Spring we have told the story of boy Jesus staying behind in the temple, Jesus' Baptism and the calling of the Disciples. Last Autumn we enjoyed 'I am the bread of life', 'I am the Good Shepherd,' and 'I am the light of the world'.

The Messy Church team is small but committed, many thanks to Hayley Liversidge, Peter, Maureen, Tyler and Lorelei Anderson, Daniel Bell, Rev. John and Diana Wanduragala. Thanks also to Trish for help with photocopying etc for crafts. Also to Helen Threfall-Williams and Gill Siddons for helping out this Spring when I was unavailable. Any help to set up tables, chairs etc from 3 pm, help with crafts and activities and socialise with families from 4 pm, wash up or tidy away from 4.30 pm would be gratefully accepted!

Mary Tones

SUNDAY CLUB

Sunday Club has changed over the course of this year with the introduction of an older group (Youth Fellowship) which has improved the differentiated content for older and younger members of the group. Unfortunately, numbers have been low and variable with 0-6 children attending at times. This inconsistency in attendance led us to change how we plan the curriculum and use Scripture Union Light Resources. This has helped to support leaders in the planning of sessions.

I would like to thank all of the leaders and helpers for Sunday Club this year, who have volunteered their time to help. Thank you to Mary, Pam, Gill and Helen.

We are continuing to try to find more volunteers to help with Sunday Club to either lead sessions or support them as a helper. We continue to pray that our Sunday Club grows in numbers, love and faith.

Kate Lawson

YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

It has been my pleasure to lead YF over the last year. We moved from meeting on a Sunday evening to meeting together on a Sunday morning during the service. Most young people were coming along in the morning and Sunday Club covered a wide range of ages. As a result we split the groups, Sunday Club year 5 and younger and YF year 6 and above.

We have a wonderful group of young people, small in number, 7 on a busy week, but full of faith and fun and curiosity. We began meeting in the vestry with David and Peter and Lisa helping out and now meet in the Fulthorpe Chapel alongside Sunday Club.

We enjoyed learning about the story of the whole bible, beginning to end using the 6 Beats youth resources from the Bible Society and we moved on to look at communion, what it is, how it points to God and how it can be an expression of our faith. Some of our young people decided they wanted to begin receiving communion and so this was good preparation.

Every week we meet with each other in friendship and respect, coming to learn more about God and having a safe place to ask the important questions of life.

We look forward to more time together in the coming year and expanding our activities to social events outside of Sunday.

Thank you to all who support our young people and to all the parents committed to helping their young people in their faith journey.

Rebecca Bell

Brownies	2nd STRANTON Hartlepool BROWNIES	Guides	10th STRANTON Hartlepool GUIDES	Rangers	2nd STRANTON Hartlepool RANGERS

A big change during 2024 was the opening of our Ranger unit for the girls 14+. We had 3 girls who wished to stay in Girlguiding, with other commitments a change of night was not possible! Hartlepool GG supported this addition, we are hoping it will allow more girls to stay in Guiding,

The numbers in Brownies and Guides have remained constant, we would like to have more girl aged 7-10yrs, to have the freedom of a girl only space, where they can develop skills, they will require in life.

During the year we have followed the Girlguiding programme – covering Take Action, Express Myself, Skills for the Future, Have Adventure, Be Well and Know Myself. We have also attended two parade service on Palm Sunday and Harvest Festival, brought down decorations the girls made for Harvest Festival and Remembrance Day, when they were on Parade at the Cenotaph. We have attended Division events for World Thinking Day, 50 years of Cleveland Girlguiding Fun day, Cinema, Campfire and Disco. We have had the opportunity to do many crafts during the year, outdoor cooking which the girls love doing and a big favourite on the last night of the year Sandcastle and Chips at Seaton! We have had two Fun Days, on a Sunday, at St Matthew's Community Centre, with lots of activities, crafts and games. For food the one in May was picnic style with pizzas salad, cakes etc and December was a full Christmas Dinner. We open this event to Norton Brownies and Guides as they invite us to go the camp with them. The camp was at Cleveland Scouts centre at Castleton in July,

We completed a number of Fun Challenge Badges during the year – children in Need, Leap Year, Elephants od Cambodia, Olympics and Egton. A highlight of the year was the follow up visit to Alice House, which allowed the girls to see what the £600 they raised the previous year, went to support in the centre. At this meeting, we enrolled 3 Brownies, 1 Guides and our first enrolment of Rangers – the 3 girls renewed their Promise as a Ranger – a very proud moment for all Leaders.

As the summer holidays approached, plus a lot of fundraising by Iona, Lara and the units, saw Lara go to Larne to attend the Girlguiding event called Ice and Iona go the Roverway in Norway a World Jamboree representing our units, Hartlepool and North East England Girlguiding. They had a wonderful time, met lots of new girls from around the UK and the world. A wonderful opportunity for them both. They gave a presentation on their return.

We thank the Hall committee and Church for the support that they give the Brownies, Guides & Rangers during the year.

Cheryl Mills (Leader)

Rainbows
2nd Hartlepool (Stranton)

This year we have continued to offer places for 24 girls, in an environment where they can develop their self-confidence, make new friends and learn new skills – all while getting their hands dirty with arts and crafts, getting in touch with nature and playing games.

The girls have worked hard meeting the aims of the Girlguiding programme, and we have given out a wonderful number of Rainbow Bronze and Silver Awards, as well as an

astonishing 5 Gold Awards – which is the highest achievement a Rainbow can get and is, even if we say so ourselves, an absolutely huge deal.

We held a Science themed Summer camp day, where we had a tonne of outdoor fun, had a blast with some exciting experiments and ended the day with a huge campfire, and toasted marshmallows of course!

We have made full use of the kitchen facilities at St Matthews this year and tried our hand at baking jam tarts and preparing and eating delicious fruit salads.

Our Christmas party was a huge success with a visit from Father Christmas himself.

As part of the wider division, we take part in a number of Girlguiding activities and traditions including: Thinking Day, Division Campfire, Cinema trips, Circus activity day. Where the girls get to meet people from all sections and develop their understanding of what it means to be a part of Girlguiding, locally, nationally and internationally.

This is all possible through the dedication of the three leaders Vikki, Sarah and Laura, and the invaluable support of our parent helpers Kirsty, Vicky and Suzanne, not to mention our fabulous young leaders Nina and Grace.

Our aim for the coming year is to secure additional funds which will help us to purchase new resources to enrich the experiences for our girls further, as well as delivering sessions which allow the girls to grow, reflect and engage with themselves and others

Vikki Richardson
Leader with Rainbows

4th Hartlepool Boys Brigade
Founded 1930
HQ - St. Matthews Community Centre
Find us on Facebook

Leaders – we have kept all our leaders from last session and after safe guarding checks were applied we have now recruited a new leader Mr Declan Moore who is currently serving in the Juniors.

Anchor Boys – we started at a low base (2) and now we have 12 regular names on our list
We have changed our uniform to a red polo shirt which is smarter than the previous T Shirt uniforms.

Juniors – we have progressed very well and have 20 names on our register, again we have changed our uniform to a Blue Polo shirt.
We have several year 6 Boys who will be promoted to our Company in May.

Company we have 16 names on our list this means we have kept most of our Lads from the previous session and any loss has been replaced by new members joining.

<u>High Lights</u>

Company Wide we have held a Carol Service, supported the Harvest Festival Service and Easter Eggheads and the St. Matthews Annual Clear up.

Devotions – throughout the year we have looked at Harvest Noah, various proverbs, The Boys Brigade Vesper and the Romans and Jesus.

Anchor Boys high lights include Super heroes night, visit to Stranton Church and a variety of crafts based on the bible story we do in devotions.

Juniors – have been visited by the Police and Captain Wells from the TA (Remembrance Day talk)

They have visited Seaton Stranton Church McDonalds, Crimdon dene and the Blue Lagoon.

Company enjoyed Camp at Hesley Woods Scout Centre South Yorkshire, visited Wolviston , the beach, Blue Lagoon and Castle Eden Dene.

Stranton and St. Matthew's
At this moment we are busy compiling a Mission, Hopes and Expectations Statement which once it is decided we will present to Rev J Bell and members of the Hall Committee and publish in some form in Sign post.

Going Forward – we hope to increase our numbers and quality of the programme we offer to all our members – so that lifelong friendships can be made (Including with Jesus).

George Bainbridge, Leader in Charge, 4th Hartlepool Boys Brigade

PASTORAL GROUP

The team comprises Cheryl Mills, Gill Siddons, Ian Walker, Rohan Wanduragala and myself, with Diana Wanduragala as an associate member, and we hold regular meetings, attended by Revd John whenever he is able. In order to continue in this capacity, we have had to review and change procedures in order to meet new Safeguarding regulations and each undergo regular Safeguarding training as required in relation to our particular role in supporting vulnerable people. The Wings for Worship course was also a useful tool this year in providing greater knowledge and understanding relating to the role some of us undertake in the ministry of providing home communion.

We continue to maintain regular contact with members of our congregation who cannot get to church and with others who appreciate some support or company. This may be in the form of home visits, home communion, telephone calls, meeting for walks or coffee or other ad hoc support, as well as Christmas and Easter cards. Most of those we visit are living at home, whilst some live in local care homes. Others have spells in hospital or care homes during times of illness or special need and, during these times, we make every effort to maintain contact and make visits to them.

Our aim is to maintain links to, and inclusion in, the church community for those who, often after many years of faithful attendance and service, are no longer physically able to attend church services on a regular basis. Those links are also strengthened by the regular delivery of weekly notice sheets by Angela and David Craig and Ian Walker, as well as copies of 'Signpost' and bible notes by a wider church team. A lot of informal or impromptu pastoral care is provided by fellow members of the congregation and by the leadership team, all of us working together to maintain a watchful eye on our congregations to identify anyone who may need support.

There are cards at the back of church which can be used by anyone wanting to request pastoral support either for themselves or others.

Pam Stockton

BELLRINGING REPORT

We continue to practice at Stranton on a fortnightly basis. Attendance at practices is usually around 10-12 but has been as high as 20 on occasion.

For the most part we have been ringing for the 11:00 service on a fortnightly basis (whilst ringing for St Aidan's Sunday service every other week). As the bells at St Aidans have been undergoing restoration work for the last three months, we have been able to ring for Stranton's Sunday service on a weekly basis during this period (although we expect the work at St Aidan's to be complete within the next four weeks).

We are making steady progress in our ringing with method ringing consuming an increasingly larger proportion of our practice nights.

It is encouraging that we have a healthy number of young ringers within our ranks.

Special thanks to Elspeth for supporting bell handling and foundation training that has made a significant improvement to general handling techniques and striking within the band.

Ringing at Stranton was suspended between September to December owing to the tower restoration work, we are very pleased to be back ringing these bells regularly again upon completion of this work.

Going forward, we will continue to try our very best to accommodate wedding ringing at Stranton as well as ringing for special services on request

Joseph Wilson
Stranton Tower Captain

ST MATTHEW'S COMMUNITY CENTRE ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT

During 2024, we welcomed Ken Shepherd and Cheryl Mills onto the committee, and we are very grateful that Cheryl has taken over the role of SMCC Secretary, from Jack. Our thanks go once again to Maureen who looks after the St Matthew's finances and Trish who manages the various bookings. Thanks also to everyone on the committee, who all contribute so effectively to the running and upkeep of the building, making improvements all the time.

Over the course of the year, work has been carried out on the basement to clear it of asbestos, but critical work on the roof still needs to be undertaken – it has proven difficult to get the necessary quotes for the work, but we continue to progress this.

The timing of our meetings is always going to be inconvenient for some members but I hope they will accept that, for the moment at least, Wednesday afternoons seem to be the preferred option.

Throughout the year, we have been working with Stranton PCC to forge closer links, partly required under charity law with the PCC as the trustees, and partly to clarify the role and remit of SMCC within the management of St Matthew's. This process continues into 2025 and it is hoped that this will be a positive move for both church and community members of the committee. It will see a move towards the committee being chaired by a member of the PCC as we move forward. During 2025, we hope to continue to work with the PCC to seek greater understanding of both our own vision for St Matthew's, and the PCC's vision for the Church and its wider mission and outreach.

I close wishing my successor all good wishes for the future.

George Bainbridge

I would like to add my sincere thanks to George for all the hard work he puts into St Matthew's, and for the years he has chaired our committee. I hope he will continue to serve the committee, the community, and the Boys Brigade for some time to come. Revd John

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish

of

All Saints, Stranton

Registered Charity No. 1134753

Accounts for the Year to 31 December 2024

Independent Examiner's Certificate for Stranton PCC Accounts: Charity Number: 1134753

I report to the trustees of: All Saints Stranton Parochial Church Council on accounts for the year ended 31 December 2024

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act), and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

Independent examiner's statement:

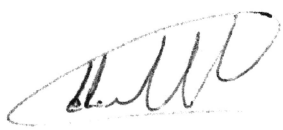
My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the following requirements have not been met:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act;
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with
- the accounting requirements of the Charities Act;
- to account for statutory fees correctly.

2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:  Clive Rathbone Date: May 10 2025

21 Wolviston Road, Hartlepool

All Saints Stranton Parochial Church Council

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 December 2024

	Note:	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	TOTAL 2024	FUNDS 2023
Incoming resources						
Incoming resources from donors	2a	61,514	8,765	-	70,279	80,470
Other voluntary incoming resources	2b	29,573	106,902	-	136,475	72,908
Income from charitable and ancillary trading	2c	31,362	-	-	31,362	28,851
Other ordinary incoming resources	2d	1,358	-	-	1,358	-
Income and realised gains from investments	2e, 10	790	-	5,444	6,233	6,782
Total incoming resources		124,596	115,667	5,444	245,707	189,011
Resources Expended						
Grants to Home and overseas mission and other charities	3a	4,914	-	-	4,914	5,100
Activities Directly relating to the work of the Church	3b	111,781	115,404	56,939	284,124	161,761
Fund Raising and Publicity	3c	-	-	-	-	-
Church Management and Administration	3d	17,892	-	-	17,892	20,201
Total resources Expended		134,588	115,404	56,939	306,931	187,062
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources: Church (see also note 10)		-4,940				
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources: Community Centre		-5,051	-9,991	**263**	**-51,495**	**-61,223**	**1,435**
Other Net Gains/losses: Investment revaluations (unreaslised)	10	-	-	**2,885**	**2,885**	**11,526**
Net movement *in* funds		-9,991	**263**	-48,610	-58,338	**12,961**
Balances Brought Forward at 1 January 2024		111,920	95,235	189,154	396,309	383,348
Balances Carried Forward at 31 December 2024		101,929	95,498	140,544	337,971	396,309

All Saints Stranton Parochial Church Council

Statement of Financial Position at 31 December 2024	Note:	**2024**	**2023**
			8,379
Fixed Assets			179,974
Tangible fixed Assets	5a	182,177	182,770
Investment Assets	5b, 10	131,184	171,595
		313,362	354,365
Current Assets			
Debtors and prepaid expenses	7	40,038	13,429
Short Term Deposits		437	8,624
Cash at Bank and in Hand		28,512	67,075
		68,987	89,128
Liabilities: Amounts falling due within one year	8	44,378	47,184
Deferred grant and donation revenues	8	-	-
Net Current (Liabilities)/ Assets		44,378	47,184
Net Assets		337,971	396,309
Funds:	6, 9, 10		
Unrestricted reserves: General, Buildings and Community Centre	9	101,928	111,920
Restricted reserves (Buildings and Organ fund)	9	95,498	95,235
Endowment reserves	10	140,544	189,154
Total Reserves		337,971	396,309

Approved by resolution of the Parochial Church Council, dated 28 April 2025

Rev'd. John G Bell (Chairman)

Mr David Craig (Hon. Treasurer)

All Saints Stranton Parochial Church Council Year to 31 December 2024

Note 1 - Accounting policies

1a) Basis of Preparation

These Accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention, as modified by the revaluation of certain assets. They have been prepared to meet the requirements of the Church Accounting Regulations 2011 together with applicable Accounting Standards, the Charities Acts 2011 and 2016 and Statements of Recommended Practice. They have been prepared on an accruals basis to match income and related expenditure relating to the year under review. The statements include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible. Financial statements for various Church related activities or groups for which the PCC is not responsible are not included. Subsidiary Financial statements for the activities of the st Matthews Community Centre which are consolidated in these Accounts are available separately. The Accounts include the Endowment Trust Funds held and administered for the benefit of the PCC by the Diocese of Durham, as custodian Trustees.

1b) Fixed Assets

Fixed Assets are stated at cost: freehold land and buildings are not depreciated as in the view of the PCC the effect of depreciation of these assets would not be material to an appreciation of the PCC's financial position. Office and computer equipment furniture and fixtures are depreciated using a straight line method over a period (generally 4-5 years) estimated to reflect the useful economic life of the Assets.

1c) Investments

Investments are revalued annually and carried at the lower of realisable and current market value, the difference between cost and carrying value is recorded in a revaluation reserve where the value is greater than original cost: a provision is made for each investment asset for which the market value is less than its original cost. Reserves and provisions are not netted off. Endowment investments are revalued to lower of market or realisable value annually by the custodian trustees and any difference adjusted against endowment reserve.

1d) Stocks

Inventory (where material) is stated at the lower of cost and net realisable value and written off as expenditure when issued.

1e) Debtors

Amounts receivable are stated at the value prudently expected to be realised. Full or partial provision is made for bad or doubtful debts as soon as they become apparent.

1f) Liabilities, Provisions, deferred income and capital grants

Full estimates are made of income and capital grants received in advance and of outstanding liabilities incurred in the course of the PCC's Activities, and provision made in compliance with current relevant Financial Reporting Standards and recommended charity practice.

1g) Pensions

Paid Staff employed by the PCC (i.e. who are not stipendiary clergy licensed by the Diocese of Durham) who are eligible for Workplace pension are offered membership of the Defined Contribution Scheme operated for the PCC by Peoples Pension (formerly B&CE), this scheme complies with the national legal membership requirements and contribution rates for workplace pensions.

1h) Employment.

During 2024 The PCC employed four part time (two church and two project) and four Sessional (occasional. Hourly paid) staff. The Church's policy is to review pay annually by benchmarking and to ensure that as a minimum the rate of National Living Wage is maintained.

All Saints Stranton Parochial Church Council

Statement of Cash Flows for the year ended 31 December 2024

	2024 Total	2024 Unrestricted	2024 Restricted	2024 Endowment see note 10	*2023 Total*
Operating activities					
Operating Deficit (2023 - surplus)	-61,223	-9,991	263	-51,495	*1,435*
				-	-
add (deduct) items not involving movement of funds: Depreciation	1,610	1,610	-	-	*1,407*
realised gains on sale of investment assets	-238			-238	-
Increase/(Decrease) in Creditors	-2,807	-2,807		-	*-32,671*
(Increase)/Decrease in Debtors	-26,609	-26,609		-	*58,719*
Cash utilised in operations	-89,267	-37,797	263	-51,733	***28,890***
Investing activities					
Cash generated from realisation of Custodian Endowment assets	48,740			48,740	-
Cash invested in fixed assets	-1,017	-1,017			-
					-
Grants & donations (released from) / transferred to deferred income	-	-	-	-	-
					-
total cash movements (Outflow) from Operating and Investing activities	**-41,544**	**-38,814**	**263**	**-2,993**	***28,890***
Represented by:					
Church Current account (decrease) in balances	-38,563	-38,814	251	-	*21,083*
			-	-	*2,346*
Deposit account (decrease) in balances	-8,187		12	-8,199	*11*
			-	-	
Increase in endowment cash balances (Custodian balances)	5,206	-	-	5,206	*5,449*
Net Movement in liquid balances	**-41,544**	**-38,814**	**263**	**-2,993**	***28,890***

Notes to the Financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2024

2 Incoming resources	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	TOTAL 2024	TOTAL 2023
2a Incoming resources from donors					
Planned Giving					
Gift Aided	36,785		-	36,785	40,240
Income Tax recoverable on Gift Aid inc donations	9,196		-	9,196	10,060
other income tax recoverable	-	-	-	-	-
other Voluntary giving	10,299	-	-	10,299	16,215
Other collections	5,233	-	-	5,233	5,467
Gift Day	-	-	-	-	-
Funds reallocation: Olive branch	-	1,473	-	1,473	-
Mission project - Other income	-	7,292	-	7,292	8,488
	61,514	8,765	-	70,279	80,470
2b Other voluntary incoming resources					
Grants	1,588	48,488	-	50,076	4,531
Tower restoration grants	-	-	-	-	-
Bell restoration appeal Grants - incl LPOW VAT	-	-	-	-	-
Mission project - External Grants	-	1,500	-	1,500	1,695
Mission project - SDF funding via Diocese	-	36,945	-	36,945	59,528
Appeals etc	-	172	-	172	-
Legacies and Donations,	27,818	15,280	-	43,098	-309
Income tax recoverable on Gift Aided Donations	-	3,820	-	3,820	7,463
Fundraising	167	698	-	865	-
	29,573	106,902	-	136,475	72,908
2c Income from Charitable and ancillary Trading					
Magazines and book sales	3	-	-	3	-
Lettings (Halls etc) contribution	18,611	-	-	18,611	20,485
Fees	5,700	-	-	5,700	5,480
Rents receivable and other income	7,048	-	-	7,048	2,886
	31,362	-	-	31,362	28,851
2d Other ordinary incoming resources					
Contributions to secretarial costs	-	-	-	-	-
Insurance claims	1,358	-	-	1,358	-
	1,358	-	-	1,358	-
2e Income from investments					
Dividends, interest and bonuses (See note 10)	790	-	8,329	9,119	6,782
Total Incoming Resources:	124,596	115,667	8,329	248,592	189,011

All Saints Stranton Parochial Church Council

Notes to the Financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2024

3. Resources Expended	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	**TOTAL 2024**	**TOTAL 2023**
3a Grants made					
Missionary and Charitable Giving					
Overseas mission	3,232	-	-	3,232	3,750
Relief & development agencies	-	-	-	-	-
Home misssions and other Church Societies	1,683	-	-	1,683	1,350
	4,914	-	-	4,914	5,100
3b Activities directly related to the work of the Church					
Ministry:					
Parish Share	40,714	-	-	40,714	38,775
Communities of Hope Hartlepool Staff costs	-	35,565	-	35,565	46,962
Communities of Hope other operating costs	-	11,816		11,816	22,749
Staff expenses,	1,728	-	-	1,728	1,759
Property costs incl house repairs	3,350	-	-	3,350	281
Church running expenses, excl hall recharge	14,875	-	-	14,875	12,512
Church repairs and maintenance	32,224	63,918	56,939	153,080	7,930
Recruitment and training costs incl DBS certification	-	-	-	-	201
Ministry costs excluding Pay cost -Community worker	-	-	-	-	722
Magazine - costs included in Stationery	-	-	-	-	-
Church hall running costs	18,890	-	-	18,890	14,446
Professional fees,surveys etc. For repairs	-	4,105	-	4,105	-
Parish lay worker remuneration	-	-	-	-	7,875
Cost of parish events	-	-	-	-	-
Deferred Income to 2022 Bells restoration (see note 2b)	-	-	-	-	-
Current and accrued Expenditure - Bells restoration	-	-	-	-	7,548
	111,781	115,404	56,939	284,124	161,761
3c Fundraising and publicity					
costs associated with generating funds	-	-	-	-	-
3c Fundraising and publicity	-	-	-	-	-
3d Church management and administration					
Administration costs incl pension contribution, and expenses	12,392	-	-	12,392	13,713
Stationery and printing	1,437	-	-	1,437	1,620
Hall overhead	2,175	-	-	2,175	3,059
Depreciation equipment & computers	1,610	-	-	1,610	1,407
Bank Charges	279	-	-	279	402
Legal and professional fees / costs .	-	-	-	-	-
					-
	17,892	-	-	17,892	20,201
Total Resources Expended:	134,588	115,404	56,939	306,931	187,062

All Saints Stranton Parochial Church Council

Notes to the Financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2024

4. Staff costs

Clergy stipends are paid by the Diocese: all other remuneration shown under note 3b and 3d was paid to the Parish lay worker, parish administrator anc October 2020 to the staff working on behalf of the Central Hartlepool Group of Parishes in the Central Hartlepool Mission project (formerly Communities Hope),a project fundedby the Diocese of Durham.
Staff remuneration includes social security costs and pension contributions made under a defined benefit scheme operated by Peoples Pension

5. Fixed Assets

5a Tangible fixed Assets

		Freehold Land And Buildings	Equipment, fixtures and IT	TOTAL
Gross book value	At 1 January 2024	178,551	48,866	227,417
	Revaluations	-	-	-
	Disposals	-	-	-
	Additions:		1,017	1,017
	Capital Grants applied	-	-	-
	At 31 December 2024	178,551	49,883	228,433
Depreciation	At 1 January 2024		44,647	44,647
	Disposals		-	-
	Charge for the year/impairment		1,610	1,610
	At 31 December 2024		46,256	46,256
Net Book Value	**At 31 December 2024**	**178,551**	**3,627**	**182,177**
	At 31 December 2023	**178,551**	**4,219**	**182,770**

Freehold land and buildings comprise St Matthew's Community Hall, and staff house accommodation at 10 Clarkson Court:
Other Tangible Fixed assets are amortised over periods estimated to reflect their economic lives from the date of acquisition, generally 4 to 5 years. Assets scrapped/sold are disposals
The Church building is not included in the statement of financial position as it has no historic cost record. Church buildings are insured for reinstatement costs
The Audio Equipment installed in church in 2020 has been subject to accelerated depreciation over 2 years in view of the potential for obsolescence and likely realisable value

5b Investments:

The PCC does not directly hold any investments but receives income from certain designated trust funds held by Durham Diocese as custodian
As the PCC is the ultimate beneficiary of these funds they have been included in these accounts
see **note 10** for an analysis of these custodian funds and their realised and unrealised changes in valuation.

6 Analysis of net assets by fund

	Unrestrictec Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
Fixed Assets	96,494	85,683	-	182,177	182,770
Endowment investment funds	-	-	131,184	131,184	171,595
Current Assets	49,812	9,815	9,360	68,987	89,128
Deferred Grants and donations revenue see notes 2b and 3b				-	-
Current Liabilities	-44,623	-	-	-44,623	-47,184
	101,683	95,498	140,544	337,726	396,309

7 Debtors:

	2024	2023
Tax Recoverable	8,070	4,091
other debtors/receivables	31,968	9,338
	40,038	13,429

8. Liabilities - amounts falling due within one year:

	2024	2023
Accruals and deferred income	30,072	33,881
Creditors for goods and services	5,498	6,143
Other Provision:	8,000	8,000
Deferred grant and donations - restricted income: (bells project)	-	-
Other creditors: Tax and NIC	1,053	-
	44,623	48,024

9: Funds

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Note 10 Endowment	2024	2023
Unrestricted and Restricted Capital (Buildings) reserves	42,292	85,683	131,184	259,159	307,769
Unrestricted - St Matthew's Hall Management Committee	57,707			57,707	62,759
Unrestricted - General Fund:	1,684			1,684	6,869
Restricted: Organ Fund		9,815		9,815	9,552
			9,360	9,360	9,360
	101,683	95,498	140,544	337,726	396,309

Locally managed endowment funds consist of a number of specific legacies, the income from which may be used for the general purposes of the PCC:
Other Endowment funds are "custodian" funds invested by the Diocese of Durham on behalf of the parish as shown in note 10

Note 10 Investment assets

These accounts include the consolidation of endowment funds held in trust on the PCC's behalf as custodian by the Diocese of Durham. These funds are ultimately under the control of the PCC for Church purposes, subject to endowment and o restrictions in each Trust deed. In 2024, the PCC obtained the necessary legal permissions to liquidate the capital and accrued interest of the "Tithe Act", "Brunswick Street" and "Church" endowments to make the funds available for essential stonework repairs on the Chu Tower and to draw the Accrued interest of the "Windrim" Trust, which was endowed for maintenance and improvement of Church Fabri

The Tower stoneork repairs were completed in December 2024: these accounts include all the relevant funding and costs associated

The funds are invested in low risk investment funds and interest bearing deposits in accordance with Diocesan investment policies

	Valuation 1/1/24	2024 financial year income	investment gain/(loss)	Realisation to fund project	Valuation 31/12/24	2023 financial year income	investment gain/(loss)	Valuation 31/12/23
Tithe Act	6,284		191	-6,475			545	6,284
Brunswick St	7,291			-7,291				7,291
Interest	908	215		-1,123		360		908
Windrim Note 10.1)	126,070		2,885		128,955		10,928	126,070
Interest	37,453	4,952		-40,176	2,229	5,033		37,453
Church	1,334		47	-1,381			53	1,334
Interest	453	39		-493		56		453
Investment reserve	**179,794**				**131,184**			**179,794**
Utilised to fund fabric repairs				**-56,939**				
Interest realised		**5,206**				**5,449**		
Investment Net Gains/(Losses)			**3,123**				**11,526**	
of which: Realised			**238**					
Unrealised			**2,885**					

10.1 The Windrim Trust (income only) is to be used for the maintenance and improvement of the Fabric of the Church

Note 11 Related party transactions

The charity did not enter into any financial transactions, remuneration arrangements or contracts involving trustees or related parties in the financial year to 31 December 2024 or in the financial year to 31 December 2023

All Saints Stranton Parochial Church Council
Restricted funds 2024

	Central Hartlepool Mission Project (Communities of Hope)	Organ Fund and Tower Appeal	Total 2024	2023 Communities of Hope	2023 Bells Appeal	Total 2023
Grants & Donations						
Benefact Trust		8000.00	8000.00			
C Cookson Trust		1000.00	1000.00			
Diocese of Durham		5000.00	5000.00			
Northumbria Historic Churches Trust		10000.00	10000.00			
Fundraising concert organ - D Cook		263.00	263.00			
Fundraising concert Tower -Hartlepool Ladies Choir		435.20	435.20			
Donations (individual)		15280.00	15280.00			
Gift aid on Donations		3820.00	3820.00			
Contribution from contractor					85.00	85.00
LPOW VAT Grant		24487.83	24487.83		7462.50	7462.50
SDF funds via Diocese of Durham	36944.73		36944.73	59528.00		59528.00
Other sources of Income - HAF	7292.36		7292.36	8488.00		8488.00
DBF missional Grant	1000.00		1000.00	500.00		500.00
Grants <£1000	500.00		500.00	1195.00		1195.00
Donations	171.50		171.50			
Internal allocation form Olive fund	1472.50		1472.50			
total restricted income 2024	47381.09	68286.03	115667.12	69711.00	7547.50	77258.50
Project expenditure						
Professional Fees		4104.71	4104.71			
Restricted fund Contribution made to Contractor incl VAT		63918.03	63918.03			
Hartlepool Group of parishes; premises expenditure	6160.00		6160.00	9579.00		9579.00
other Operating costs	5655.91		5655.91	10514.00		10514.00
Bell contractors - contribution to Repairs and refurbishments					7547.50	7547.50
Salaries costs	35565.18		35565.18	46962.00		46962.00
Accrued costs and contractual liabilities				2656.00		2656.00
Total Restricted Expenditure	47381.09	68022.74	115403.83	69711.00	7547.50	77258.50
Surplus carried forward - addition to Organ fund		263.00	263.00			
Total Restricted Expenditure and surplus	47381.09	68285.74	115666.83	69711.00	7547.50	77258.50

Independent Examiner's Certificate for Stranton PCC Accounts: Charity Number: 1134753

I report to the trustees of: All Saints Stranton Parochial Church Council on accounts for the year ended 31 December 2024

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act), and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

Independent examiner's statement:

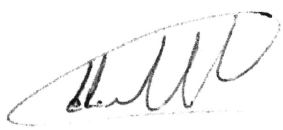
My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the following requirements have not been met:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act;
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with
- the accounting requirements of the Charities Act;
- to account for statutory fees correctly.

2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:  Clive Rathbone Date: May 10 2025

21 Wolviston Road, Hartlepool

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ALL SAINTS, STRANTON

England & Wales - Charity number 1134753

Accounts

ALL SAINTS, STRANTON CHURCH
HARTLEPOOL

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2023



Rooted in God's love,
Growing together with Jesus,
Branching out in the power of the Spirit.

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Vicar's Report for Stranton Church 2023

It's now been 18 months since I was licensed to the Central Hartlepool Group, which means I've had the opportunity to see a lot of what happens in each of our churches across the Group. I've been able to get to know many of you, but sadly we've had to say goodbye to many of our dear friends including James Lawson, Janice Young, Elizabeth Hotham, Kathleen Harkness, Alan Harkness, Dick Potter and Ann Courtenay.

As always, there are so many people who are and have been involved in so many different aspects of church life here at Stranton that without all of you, our church would not continue to survive or thrive. So, thank you, to all of you, for your support of our church and all who have helped lead and serve alongside me during 2023.

Particular thanks go to Rohan and Angela (our churchwardens), and Andrew (our lay vice chair) who have supported me as I've found my feet in Hartlepool, and to the rest of our Standing Committee (Maureen (PCC Secretary), Peter (Deputy Warden), and David (Treasurer)), who together have been a strong and supportive sounding board for me. Also, to our PCC who have worked with me as I have asked many, many questions, especially in the early months, which often dragged our meetings on much later than expected on occasion. I also want to say thank you to Mary, our Lay Reader, who does so much to support our children's ministry especially, but in so many other ways too.

2023 wasn't without its challenges, especially around Communities of Hope, but we navigated our way through them and have supported a number of ventures by the project including the Easter and Summer Holiday Clubs at St Luke's and the Christmas Hampers which saw 120 hampers given out to schools and members of the community across the Group.
It was a privilege throughout the year to take several weddings here at Stranton, and to be able to baptise many children here too – I continue to pray that they continue their own journey of faith in the years to come.

In February 2023, we welcomed Bishop Paul back to Stranton Church as he re-dedicated our church bells. It was a lovely service with many of our bellringers past and present coming along for the service, and it would be remiss of me not to thank Andrew Frost once again for his efforts in project managing the whole restoration effort in 2022 – I still haven't forgotten climbing onto the low-loader two days after being licensed here, as the bells came back to Hartlepool.
In April, we bid farewell to Clive and Ang Hall, and I was delighted to be able to support Clive as he was licensed in his new role in Withernsea (and I got to meet two of my predecessors in the process!). We are blessed to still receive Ang's contributions to our church magazine. I am also very grateful to Jordan for taking up the mantle and leading our sung worship, and even recording tracks to help out on those weeks he isn't available in person.

As well as the re-dedication, and Clive and Ang's farewell, we held and joined in with many joint services across the churches in the group including Trinity Sunday, the patronal festivals for St Luke and St Aidan, and on Christmas Day, we hosted a lovely joint Christmas Carol service at Stranton, attended by people from across the group, and we joined the Christmas Day service at St Luke's as we came together to celebrate the birth of Christ.

One of the biggest challenges we've faced is having one Stipendiary Priest to serve across the whole Central Hartlepool Group, while the other post remains vacant. We have been blessed by having Revd Andrew, Revd Kevin, and Revd Tony, serve us on a regular basis and other clergy helping us out from time to time too. I want to say a huge thank you to anyone and everyone who has supported and enabled our worship throughout 2023.

Looking ahead, we continue to hope and pray for church growth, and I will be looking at ways we can all work to facilitate that – in depth of faith and in our community links, as well as the growth of our numbers. We have an ideal opportunity to reflect on what God wants us to do next, on where our priorities lie in the years ahead, and how we can best serve those around us.

In grace and peace,
Revd John (Priest in Charge)

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

All Saints, Stranton Church is situated in Church Row, Hartlepool TS24 7QT. It is part of the Diocese of Durham within the Church of England. The correspondence address is Stranton Church Office, St Matthew's Community Centre, Arncliffe Gardens Entrance, Hartlepool TS26 9JF.

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a charity excepted from registration with the Charity Commission

PCC members who have served from 1st January 2023 until the date this report was approved are:

Priest in Charge:	The Rev'd John Bell *(ex-officio)*	Chairperson
Wardens:	Mrs Angela Craig	
	Mr Rohan Wanduragala	
Representatives on the Deanery Synod:		
	Mr Andrew Rogers	
	Mr Ken Shepherd	from 30.04.2023
Elected members:		
	Mrs Maureen Anderson	Secretary
	Mr Paul Anderson	
	Mr Peter Anderson	
	Mr David Craig	Treasurer
	Mrs Diane Greenwood	
	Mr David House	
	Miss Kate Lawson	
	Mrs Cheryl Mills	
	Mrs Jacqui Rogers	
	Mrs Mary Tones	

The full PCC met seven times during the year with an average level of attendance of 71%. Committees met between meetings and minutes of their deliberations were received by the full PCC and discussed where necessary.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All Church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

ELECTORAL ROLL

There are 87 parishioners on the Church Electoral Roll, parish. Nine names removed during the year.

Ken Shepherd
Electoral Roll Officer

FINANCE REPORT

Our statutory accounts for the Year to 31st December 2023 show a break-even overall on realised gains and losses, with a surplus on Endowment Fund income covering small financial deficits in both the Church General Fund and the St Matthews Community Centre account. The Endowment Fund investments which are managed on our behalf by the Diocese of Durham also made a partial

recovery of valuation losses (market value) that had been experienced in the previous year. In summary, these results can be shown as follows:

	£: *2023*	£: *2022*
General Fund - Operating deficit:	-3,658	-6,673
St Matthews - Operating deficit (2022 – surplus)	-356	2,768
Endowment income (interest) surplus	5,449	8,975
Net Realised gains	1,435	5,070
Unrealised Gains (2022 - losses) on Endowment investments	11,526	-16,146
Total net gains /2022 - (losses)	12,961	-11,076

With the departure of Revd Clive Hall our Associate Minister in the spring, our payroll costs have reduced significantly overall, but at the same time the linked dedicated income support for him came to an end. Following the loss of quite a number of our older members, who had given regular commitment to supporting Stranton Church financially over many years, we also experienced an overall fall in regular giving from donors (as shown on page 6), though we must recognise with gratitude that we still have a core of key members who contribute seriously and sacrificially through the Parish Giving Scheme, and many of them have taken the option of annual inflation uplift. Our Parish owned accommodation in Clarkson Court also went on the rental market from August and is now making a useful contribution to our general income.

In short, we met all of our financial obligations as they fell due, including paying our Diocesan Parish "share" £38,775. We would have had a small surplus on General Fund had it not been for the Costs and Fees incurred (in excess of £6,000) in scoping, specifying and putting out to tender the now urgent stonework repairs which will need to be undertaken in 2024.

St Matthews Community Centre experienced its first deficit, which was attributable mainly to a retrenchment of Communities of Hope activities and a consequent fall in income from Church linked groups. A £2,000 contribution received from the Diocese of Durham towards the cost of urgent electrical upgrades helped to bring the finances back into focus at the end of the year

Highlights of the year with significant restricted fund impact included: The "Bells project" which has now been completed and the final Grant and Gift Aid Tax recovery support has been received, and continuing to host the Hartlepool Communities of Hope Team, on behalf of the Central Hartlepool Group of Parishes. In this continuing project we carry forward unspent resources as deferred income against future costs, as it does not generate a surplus for the Parish or Group.

On behalf of the PCC, and in thanks to God for the faithful spirit shown by our congregations, I acknowledge and celebrate the generosity of our members. I give thanks for those who commit to regular financial support, and add my encouragement to participate in this way in the fullness of Christ's Kingdom. As always I also record my particular thanks to key individuals who make essential contributions of their time and skills to the financial resourcing (in the widest sense) of the Church.

Especially I thank Maureen Anderson, our assistant treasurer and PCC secretary, who performs the considerable daily tasks of controlling our bank accounts and cash books, and also manages the Community Centre Accounts; Ken Shepherd and the members of the Cash counting team; also Trish Playfor the Parish Administrator and others including our Independent Examiner Clive Rathbone for his diligence and for his gracious provision of time and expertise in reviewing these accounts to ensure objectively and independently that they meet necessary legal and professional standards.

D A Craig, Hon Treasurer, April 2024

BUILDING AND FABRIC OF THE CHURCH

Thank you to everyone who, in whatever way, helped make our Church a house of prayer and worship, a place of welcome and friendship. The duties you performed and continue to perform, whether large or small, noticed or unnoticed, acknowledged or not: the word of God read, the Word

preached, praises sung, music played, the church cleaned and decorated seasonally, prayers said, people loved and prayed for and welcomed, the garden tended, refreshments provided and served and many more would not happen or wouldn't be the same without you. A big 'Thank you' from the Churchwardens to Peter Anderson and David House our assistant churchwardens for their continued help and guidance.

We continue to be encouraged by increasing cooperation particularly with St Luke's congregation and with joint services across the whole group. Looking forward, we sincerely hope Revd John will be joined by another group incumbent before the end of the year!

Meanwhile, all of the congregation needs to take their part in supporting Revd John and the running of Stranton Church. I encourage you all to be involved and join in work parties, bereavement support, visiting other members working with the pastoral group, weekday house groups, or cleaning the church: every little helps. We are urged in scripture not to stop meeting together to encourage one another. Hebrews 10: 25.

It is good to see succession for music worship leading, thanks to Jordan for taking this role and all who lead us in singing. Thanks to all who have taken up roles with leading and developing our young people and the support given to this by Mary Tones, Hayley Liversidge of the "Communities of Hope team ", Kate and the band of helpers.

Buildings:

- Following the bells refurbishment project it has become clear that some of the Tower stonework has become severely weathered and pointing eroded to so that urgent and extensive remedial work is needed. Our architect inspected last year, and drew up a detailed specification for required work, which went to tender in December, and we are pleased to say that progress is being made; tenders have been received and we are now looking to accept one to commence pre-contract negotiations. Fundraising has started by applying for grants, we are blessed with some custodian trust funds and a recent bequest which will make it possible for us to raise the minimum £100,000 cost (Ex VAT) of essential works.
- In carrying out this work we will honour the legacy of past generations for maintaining this place of worship and witness. Also, we in turn will be doing our part to ensure the ongoing work of the church.
- Routine Inspections/service:
- Heating: Annual boiler service took place in October 2023. The leak in the Fulthorpe Chapel was completed after several attempts and the steps to the kitchen offshoot have been re-instated.
- Fire Safety: Inspection of the fire extinguishers completed March 2023.
- A new fob – activated intruder alarm system has been installed in church giving more comprehensive coverage: fewer accidental set offs have occurred.
- Lightning protection system: inspected and tested in July 2023.
- Tower clock: The clock was stopped for the bell refurbishment project. It has been serviced and re-started.
- An inspection of articles (communion plate, furniture and equipment) belonging to the church (terrier) was satisfactorily completed in March 2024
- Other minor maintenance tasks are carried out as required and recorded in the Church Logbook.
- Church yard and flower borders: Our thanks to the Council for maintaining the church grounds and rose beds and checking on safety of gravestones and cutting the grass. Ian White, a member of St Luke's congregation, has made for us a beautiful collection bowl from a piece of the dead and removed cherry tree at the bottom of the steps.
- Thanks to Pam Stockton for looking after the flower beds that line our churchyard path which make a joyful sight as we walk up the steps to worship God and look great on church photos too.

- Parking: Thanks to Camerons for their help and assistance with operating the car park and ensuring parking spaces are available, particularly at busy times when they also permit the use of their own designated parking areas and have on occasion supplied marshals.
- Church Bell refurbishment is complete. A great testimony to teamwork by ringers from the whole town, and elsewhere. We are immensely grateful to Andrew Frost for managing this project, to Maureen Anderson for undertaking the considerable burden of administrative tasks, and to David Craig for overseeing the finances. A special thank you to the volunteers who helped with the work which contributed to a significant saving in costs.

Health and safety report

Health and Safety Audit of the church was carried out most recently in March 2024. The following matters are noted from that inspection:

- Lighting to the rear path to church has been improved.
- The carpet in church has been cleaned by Mark Sanders - a big thank you. The joints continue to be monitored. The replacement is on hold for the moment due to other pressing needs for our church funds.
- Two pews have been temporarily moved to the Fulthorpe chapel to give more space for our young children and for refreshments after services. A faculty will be required if this becomes permanent. *How do you find this change? Speak to a churchwarden or Revd John.*
- The replacement steps in the Fulthorpe Chapel to the kitchen have been completed.
- The five yearly Electrical Installation Condition check is due in 2024,
- The tower ladder for roof access does not meet current regulations for working at height: this area is not accessible to the public.
- Progress has been made in de-cluttering storage areas including disposing of old candles and clearing the Prayer Room.

No new hazards were found.

We have not yet restarted a sidesperson rota and this will be done as soon as possible after Annual Meeting. Please volunteer if you are able to be at one of the services half an hour before it starts to welcome and guide people and assist with guiding people to take Holy Communion.

Angela Craig, Rogan Wanduragala
Churchwardens

DEANERY SYNOD REPORT

Synod met twice during the year, in February and November. It continues to be an excellent vehicle not only to disseminate information, but also to provide a useful space to be able to discuss matters of mutual interest. It is ably chaired by Janet, our Area Dean and Julia Taylor now covers the role of Secretary.

During our February Synod topics of mutual interest discussed included; a desire to have a Christian presence at the Tall Ships event, new safeguarding and DBS arrangements, ensuring school visits were adequately supported and contacts with funeral directors.

The main agenda item was a report by Duncan Podbury, Diocesan Transformation Project Lead, on the progress of the Diocesan Transformation Project. The six threads of the Project being:-

- Missional Discipleship, Transforming Prayer,
- Church Planting and Revitalisation
- Missional Youth Chaplaincy to FE Collages & 11-16s
- Piloting Mission Hubs
- Resources for Local Change
- Culture Change - certainly “food for thought”.

In the November Synod the officers for the 2023-2026 triennium were appointed; Lorraine Williams as Lay Chair; Ken Shepherd as Treasurer and Julia Taylor as Secretary.

Hart Church has received the Eco Church Gold Standard and has offered help and advice to others parishes considering Eco Church. Area Dean Janet mused whether the Deanery currently has a sense of direction and wondered what we could do together. Topics discussed were:-

- Have a Deanery social event
- Organise a Prayer Walk

Deanery Evensong (this took place last month in Stranton and it was a great event, well attended and the choir was in fine voice).

A pilgrimage to the Bishop Auckland Faith Museum (this has also taken place).

Revd Andrew Craig outlined the work of the Hartlepool Foodbank, a registered charity originally established by Hartlepool Churches Together. Along with food parcels the Foodbank now offers advice on financial and benefit matters. They are always on the lookout for more willing volunteers, not just distributing food but as warehouse people, signposting, driving or cleaning.

Andrew Rogers

SAFEGUARDING - CHILD AND VUNERABLE ADULT PROTECTION

This year, Rev John Bell has been taking control of the parish dashboard (a mechanism to ensure we comply with diocesan policy) since Rev Clive Hall left earlier in the year. While it still requires some updating around training for specific roles in the church, progress is being made.

Concerns have been followed up quickly and effectively this year, showing our policies around safeguarding and recruitment are robust and effective, and in consultation with the diocese where necessary. However we are aware that role descriptions are required for various jobs in the church, and these help to prevent 'role creep'.

Twice-termly meetings have been scheduled between the parish safeguarding officer and incumbent to keep up to date with safeguarding issues, and we continue to comply with diocesan policy by automatically bringing updates to the PCC for approval

Peter Hart
Safeguarding Officer

GATHERED WORSHIP IN STRANTON PARISH

There is a regular pattern of worship services across the parish, both weekly and monthly. The services are held in Church and St Matthew's Hall. Each service has its own characteristics. We hope and pray that there is something for those who have been part of a worshipping community for a long time and those attending for the first time. The pattern is summarised as follows –

Stranton Church

Sundays

9:00	Holy Communion	A quiet said service using traditional liturgy
11:00	Morning Worship Holy Communion Lighthouse Service (provision for all ages)	Each Sunday has a different characteristic. Generally the services are relaxed and welcoming including a mix of contemporary music and hymns. 1st and 3rd Sundays include communion 4th Sunday, Lighthouse is a good service to try if you are new to church, it includes welcomes for families wanting baptism.

St Matthew's Community Centre

4:00 second Sunday only	Messy Church	A service for families based around craft, story and sharing tea together
Wednesdays		
10:00	Holy Communion	A said midweek communion in a more accessible venue.

WORSHIP TEAM

I took over running the worship team since Clive and Angela left, despite being initially hesitant! In this time, I've tried to develop the team to be more free, and we have a core group plus occasional helpers.

Sophie and Pam join us most weeks, while Stella sings with us when she's available. Mary Tones and Luke Tones have both joined in regularly, too, and we had Anne Courtney with us prior to her passing.

Anne passing was a shock to most of us, and in my very early days of leading the team, I massively appreciated her steadfast and reliable presence every Sunday - she's been missed!

I'm hoping that the team will continue to grow in confidence and in stature, and we'll be open to wherever the Lord takes us.

Jordan Thornhill

STRANTON TODDLER GROUP

I took over the running of Toddlers in June 2022. It continues to be popular and thrive attracting between 27-35 children plus their accompanying adults each session. The large variety of activities on offer continue pretty much as they did before.

Both halls are used with a large amount of play equipment and more messy activities in the smaller room. At about 10am everyone comes together for a snack and squash/tea/coffee. Following tidy up time the sessions finish with singing nursery songs. It is busy but there is a lovely atmosphere and it is great to see the youngsters smiling, laughing and having fun.

As always, it is heavily dependent upon the help of volunteers to be able to run it. My sincere thanks to all those who help and put in such hard work to ensure it runs smoothly. It is very much appreciated.

Currently we could do with at least two more volunteers. One to help on a rota basis with the snack in the kitchen and another to help set up first thing in the morning. Setting up in the morning would particularly be when a volunteer is away so can't help. If you are interested please let me know.

I have enjoyed getting to know all the mums, dads, grandparents and child minders that come and look forward to seeing how it develops.

Thank you for your time and prayerful support.

Hayley Liversidge

MESSY CHURCH

Messy Church for families is on the second Sunday of the month at 4:00 pm - 5.30 pm in St Matthew's Hall except for December when we have a Messy Christingle Service in church and on Good Friday morning when we have Messy Easter. The families who attend are a mix of those who attend the

11:00 am service at Stranton, those who only attend Messy church and those who are invited to attend a service prior to a Welcome or Baptism of children. Attendance varies between thirty to forty plus people in total.

Once everyone has arrived we tell a Bible story, say a prayer and sing a song. Then there are activities and crafts to complete based on the story, before we have tea together. This Spring we have told the story of Joseph in three sessions, last Autumn we focused on three of Jesus' parables.

The Messy Church team is small but committed, many thanks to Hayley Liversidge, Peter, Maureen and Paul Anderson and Jordan Thornhill. Any help to set up tables, chairs etc from 3pm, help with crafts and activities and socialise with families from 4pm, wash up or tidy away from 4.30pm would be gratefully accepted!

Mary Tones

SUNDAY CLUB

Sunday Club takes place on the first three Sundays of the month during the 11am service in the Fulthorpe Chapel, except in school holidays. It is for school age children, although preschool children may attend if accompanied by a parent or carer. There have been two or three new families attending over the last year and we've enjoyed working with up to 16 children in Sunday Club, ages ranging from 2 to 14 years old, which is a challenge in a small space. We aim to provide a friendly, fun session that the children will enjoy while learning about their faith. We usually follow a different theme each term: in the Spring term we've been focusing on Jesus 'healing miracles, last Autumn we looked at the Fruit of the Spirit and then the Birth of Jesus leading up to a performance of the Nativity in December.

Looking ahead, although the children are usually very patient and help each other with the activities, we would love to be able to run two groups of older and younger children, and have been praying and advertising for more helpers for several months. At the moment we have three leaders and three helpers (with DBS and safeguarding training), so it works out about one Sunday a month on the rota, depending on availability due to holidays etc.

We would like to find another children/young person's Bible to use as an alternative to the Beginners Bible, which is not so appropriate for the older children. It would also be good to be able to have a screen available to use; we have used a tablet/iPad from time to time, however they aren't really big enough for a large group of children to watch.

Many thanks to all the leaders and helpers: Kate, Pam, Gill, Helen and especially Annika Sanders, our most recent recruit.

Mary Tones

YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

Our Youth Fellowship (YF) has continued to meet most Sunday evenings during term-time. We are a small group covering 11-18 year olds but only have 11-15 year olds at present.

Until April, the group was led by Revd Clive Hall. Mark Sanders took over from Clive and led YF through until September when Revd John took this on, all working alongside Rachel West who has been very much part of the team. We have been supported during 2023 by Peter Hart, Chloe Thornhill, Jordan Thornhill, Paul Anderson, Rebecca Bell and others who have stepped in on an ad-hoc basis to support us and keep the group running as much as possible. My thanks go to everyone who has played a part in helping make YF thrive.

In September, our group grew by 2 when Daniel B and Daniel G started secondary school and joined our numbers. We started the new academic year by looking at what the young people wanted from

the group and giving them the opportunity to 're-brand' themselves - creating their own identity for the youth group. They chose to keep the Youth Fellowship name but came up with their own design for our new logo. They even came up with their own 'ground rules'.

We have enjoyed a couple of visits to the Pulse youth event at Durham Cathedral, including seeing the cathedral turned into the biggest indoor escape room, when 12 of us (8 youth and 4 adults) went along in October, which also allowed us to hear Bishop Paul give his last talk to Pulse.

During the autumn term, we spent several weeks looking at the fruits of the spirit - love, joy, peace, patience, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

We continue to meet, enjoying food, fellowship, fun and games, and of course studying the bible and the Christian faith. We are always on the lookout for new members to join us and for volunteers to come on board and help lead our young people in their journey with God. If you can help, then please speak to Revd John.

Revd John

2nd STRANTON Hartlepool BROWNIES and 10th STRANTON Hartlepool GUIDES

The numbers in Brownies & Guides have increased slightly during the year, both groups have space available for new members. We have welcomed new members to Brownies and some Brownies have moved up to Guides. During the year, we have done a variety of activities, the summer term is when we hope to be out of the hall. We follow the Girlguiding programme of activities which allow the girls to gain a variety of awards and badges, which will lead to being awarded an extra award, the Gold Award being highest in each section.

Brownies – Bronze Award – 3 girls. Silver Award – 2 Girls, Gold Award – 1 girl

Guides – Bronze Award – 3 girls. Silver Award – 1 Girls, Gold Award – 3 girls

In between the Girlguiding programme we do crafts, celebrate special events. In the Summer months we were invited to join the 4th Norton Brownies and Guides to go the Girlguiding events at Waddow. Brownies went for the day to Magic and Mayhem; the Guides went for a weekend camping to Wristbands and Wellies. Both events were well organised, the girls had a brilliant time. The Guides organised a Fundraising event for Alice House, making items to sell, which was well supported by parents, friends and Church members, raising over £600, the Brownies helped on the night serving at tables. We did a collection for the Food Bank - we were lucky that Clive Hall could receive our contributions before he left to pastures new! We have visited the Lifeboat station, a very informative and interesting night, investigated the rock pools at the headland: the last meeting of the summer term we had a fun night at the beach followed by chips; supported 'Pudsey'; had activities and reading for Remembrance day, attending the Parade at the Cenotaph; celebrated World Thinking day – on the wave, a Division event on our meeting night; we Celebrated the Coronation at Division event, the badge for the event was designed by Alice, one of our Guides; they were given the Challenge Badge – 40 days of Summer for the Summer holidays.

The Leaders organised FUNDAYS, one in April where we had a picnic style lunch, painting, games, outdoor cooking and other crafts. The second one, we invited the 4th Norton Brownies and Guides, was at the end of November. We did Christmas crafts, mixology and baking plus Christmas dinner.

One of the Guides, now a young Leader was selected to represent Girlguiding North-East England (Cleveland and Hartlepool) at an international Camp, Roverway, in Norway in July 2024. Along with friends from Guides and Leaders they joined the sponsored Boxing Day dip at Seaton. As part of her fundraising. She has, with the support of her family, friends and the Guides helping her to fundraise £2000 required for her to attend. She is moving towards her target. One of our girls was selected (not

as a Guide) to be a crew member on the Tall Ships race, on the leg from Hartlepool to Norway. The Brownies and Guides were excited, they went to see her leave and many helped at the Girlguiding tent on the Marina, gaining a badge for their support.

We thank the Hall committee and Church for the support that they give the Brownies and Guides during the year.

Cheryl Mills
Leader with Brownies & Guides

Following an extremely busy open evening, we re-opened the Rainbows unit in May 2023 with a bang, taking on 20 girls (from a planned maximum of 15!).

Coming up to our first anniversary, with 24 girls now on our register, we have had an absolutely jam-packed year, and we couldn't have done it without the dedication of the three leaders Vikki, Sarah and Laura, and the invaluable support of our parent helpers Sara, Kirsty, Vicky and Suzane, not to mention our fabulous young leaders Nina and Grace.

The girls have enjoyed working through the girlguiding programme making friends and learning new skills through games, crafts and fun! We are thrilled that 18 of our girls have achieved their Rainbow Bronze award and are working hard on their Silver Award. We also said goodbye to one of our girls as she went up to Brownies, we have a lovely 'Pot of Gold' celebration to say goodbye and wish her well on her new adventure!

We have looked at lot at exploring and explorers, learning about our local area with a visit to Summerhill Park in the Autumn to put our skills (and special binoculars) to the test.

We have had visits from Guide Dogs for the Blind where we learnt all about the challenges visually impaired people face as well as meeting a Guide Dog. Recently Pets4People joined us bringing special guests Mozart the giant bunny, and Romeo the Bearded Dragon, as well as a 'patch' of Stick Insects. We celebrated Thinking Day with the Brownies and Guides, as well as at a special event with the entire Hartlepool Division, out first event as a new unit and the girls were wonderful ambassadors for the Hartlepool Second Rainbows.

We are looking forward to the adventures we will have in the coming year with plans for a camp day, baking, outdoor games and much much more!!!!

Vikki Richardson
Leader with Rainbows

4th Hartlepool

4th Hartlepool Boys Brigade

Founded 1930

HQ - St. Matthews Community Centre

Find us on Facebook

4th Hartlepool

The number of adult leaders remain the same and we have gained a helper in the Anchor Boys.

We now have a two tiered NCO structure (Sgts and L/Cpl) we hope to add another tier in September so that we have the three NCO ranks (L/Cpl, CPL and Sgt) it will be the first time for several years that this will happen

We average 6 boys in Anchors, 15 boys in Juniors and 15 lads in Company (Boys in name only!!!)

We are disappointed with the Anchor numbers but hope to recruit more in September if not sooner

Highlights

We held a Christmas Carol Service in Stranton Church which was very well attended, spent a Saturday morning weeding and tidying St Matthew's car park, and served bacon butties at St Matthew's before the Harvest Festival and Palm Sunday services.

Our devotions in 2024 have been based on the Boys Brigade hymn. *We have an Anchor* and Luke 2 v 52 (King James Bible) *And Jesus increased in Wisdom and Stature and was in Favour with God and Man.* (Every activity we do at Boys Brigade is based on this verse)

Two fayres were held and we had visits from the Police and Captain Wells of the TA spoke about Remembrance Sunday. All Sections did displays or activities for both Services

Our camp which was held at Fanwood Scout Centre was a great success and all events were organized by the younger leaders

The Future

We have received a grant from Cleveland Police for two keyboards and associated equipment. We have hired a band master so that we can form a band other advantages are that in future years music training can be done in-house and in time a percussion band be formed for the Anchor Boys section. It also benefits all our sections in regards to devotions. .

Camp

This year's Camp is at Helsey Wood Scout Centre South Yorkshire from Monday 22nd - 27th July, initial planning has already started

Summary

We are always looking for new ideas and activities for our members and try as much as possible, through parades, church displays, Easter Eggheads, St Matthews Tidy Ups, Leaders bell ringing and a journalist for Signpost to be as big a part of Stranton Church as possible.

If you know any 5-8 year olds please send them along to Anchor Boys on a Friday Night
6:00 pm - 7:00 pm

George Bainbridge, Leader in Charge, 4th Hartlepool Boys Brigade

PASTORAL GROUP

We have been very pleased to welcome a new member to our team this year. Gill Siddons has recently joined Cheryl Mills, Ian Walker, Rohan Wanduragala and myself, with Diana Wanduragala as an associate member. We continue to maintain regular contact with members of our congregation who cannot get to church and with others who appreciate a bit of support or company. This may be in the form of home visits, home communion, telephone calls, meeting for walks or coffee or other ad hoc support. Some have had spells in hospital or care homes and, where possible during these times, we make every effort to maintain contact and make visits.

Unfortunately, we have again to report the passing away of some of our pastoral contacts – Kath and Alan Harkness, Betty Hotham and Doreen Lathan. They are sadly missed and remembered with love.

We continue to deliver Christmas and Easter cards (with some form of chocolate!) to those who are unable to attend services. David and Angela Craig and Ian Walker deliver copies of the weekly notice sheet and some people receive copies of Signpost and bible notes, delivered by a wider church team. All these things are important in helping to maintain our connection with those who, often after many years of faithful attendance and service, are no longer physically able to attend services on a regular basis.

It is also important to note that a lot of informal pastoral care is provided by both members of the congregation and the leadership team.

Some of our team members have, with John's guidance, been involved this year in a shared venture across our group of churches to explore ways of providing bereavement support and this is ongoing.

There are cards at the back of church which can be used by anyone wanting to request pastoral support either for themselves or for others.

Pam Stockton

BELLRINGING REPORT

I am pleased to continue to be the Stranton Tower Captain and I now have Thelma Adams as the Steeplekeeper having taken over from Rohan Wanduragala.

The bells are now making a much more pleasant sound and are significantly easier to ring and strike correctly following their complete refurbishment. Following insulation of sound proofing in the Belfry in early 2024 (which has reduced the noise level in the ringing chamber), the project is now fully complete. Taylor's of Loughborough have inspected the bells twice since they were rehung and small adjustments made.

We continue to practice at Stranton on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month with good attendance. Elspeth Craig runs a bell handling session and foundation training on most Tuesdays and her teaching has helped considerably to improve ringers' striking.

We ring at Stranton every other Sunday morning and often manage to ring on all 8 bells. If we have enough people available we can sometimes ring at both Stranton and St Aidan's on the same morning.

A number of quarter peals (45 minutes) and one full peal (3 hours) have been rung through the year. Fittingly the maiden full peal on the newly refurbished bells was dedicated to former Tower Captain Andy Kaye and to Margery Maughan, widow of Bill Maughan.

We have had visiting bell ringers and teams of ringers through the year. On 20th May 2023 we were pleased to host members of the Maughan family. Six of the family had learned to ring at Stranton and were taught by their father, Bill. Margery had passed away earlier in 2023 and that weekend was their opportunity to get together and scatter her ashes on Roseberry Topping to be with those of their father. It was a memorable and emotional day to have them all ring on Stranton's refurbished bells.

Joseph Wilson
Tower Captain

ST MATTHEW'S COMMUNITY CENTRE ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT

During 2023 there have been some changes to our St Matthew's management team. Diana Wanduragala has retired after many years of loyal service to St Matthew's and Carol Laud has stepped down from her role as Secretary after many years of dedicated service, although she remains a committee member. We thank them both for their work at St Matthew's. Jack Hanlon has been elected as our new secretary and our best wishes go to him in his new role. Two new members, Mark Sanders and Vince Gaffney, have been elected to the committee during 2023.

Buildings such as St Matthew's require constant maintenance and upgrading and the extent of this challenge was highlighted in a commissioned report from a qualified surveyor at the end of 2022. The recommended improvements to the small hall which included repointing of brickwork, replacement and repair of guttering and installation of protective drain covers have been completed and funded from existing income. The car park and the front of the small hall were the subject of a summer clean up involving committee members and volunteers from Boys Brigade.

However, the work required on the main building is much more extensive and expensive and will require advice and support from experienced members of the PCC. We have identified possible grant givers and we require more tenders from experienced contractors. At present our focus is to make the building water tight, since following bad weather flooding the cellar we have discovered some of the lead flashing has been removed from the roof and some brickwork damaged, which is also causing ingress of water to the main hall and Asda Room.

In the longer term the committee have agreed that the building is underused, particularly during the day, and we will increase our efforts through advertising and social media etc to increase awareness of the facilities we can offer to potential users. Our efforts regarding availability for parties and other functions is slowly bearing fruit, but most bookings still come from personal recommendations.

During 2024 we will be working more closely with the PCC as recent changes to Charity Commission Law means the constitution and terms of reference for St Matthew's in the PCC standing orders need to be examined and updated where necessary. The coming months will be a challenge for everyone involved with St Matthew's but we are all committed to meet this challenge for all our community and church members.

George Bainbridge
Chair

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish

of

All Saints, Stranton

Registered Charity No. 1134753

Accounts for the Year to 31 December 2023

Independent Examiner's Certificate for Stranton PCC Accounts: Charity Number: 1134753

I report to the trustees of: All Saints Stranton Parochial Church Council on accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act), and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

Independent examiner's statement:

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the following requirements have not been met:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act;
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with
- the accounting requirements of the Charities Act;
- to account for statutory fees correctly.

2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed: Clive Rathbone Date: April 26th 2024

21 Wolviston Road, Hartlepool

All Saints Stranton Parochial Church Council

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 December 2023

	Note:	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	TOTAL 2023	FUNDS 2022
Incoming resources						
Incoming resources from donors	2a	71,982	8,488	-	80,470	79,740
Other voluntary incoming resources	2b	4,137	68,771	-	72,908	140,855
Income from charitable and ancillary trading	2c	28,851	-	-	28,851	31,749
Other ordinary incoming resources	2d	-	-	-	-	-
Income from investments	2e, 10	1,333	-	5,449	6,782	9,242
Total incoming resources		106,303	77,259	5,449	189,011	261,586
Resources Expended						
Grants to Home and overseas mission and other charities	3a	5,100	-	-	5,100	7,729
Activities Directly relating to the work of the Church	3b	85,015	77,259	-	162,274	202,858
Fund Raising and Publicity	3c	0.00	-	-	0	1,765
Church Management and Administration	3d	20,201	-	-	20,201	29,593
Total resources Expended		110,316	77,259	-	187,575	241,945
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources: Church & see note 10	**-3,658**					
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources: Community Centre	**-356**	**-4,014**	-	**5,449**	**1,435**	**5,070**
Other Net Gains/losses: Investment revaluation	10	-	-	**11,526**	**11,526**	**-16,146**
Net movement in funds		**-4,014**		**16,975**	**12,961**	**-11,076**
Balances Brought Forward at 1 January 2023		115,934	95,235	172,179	383,348	394,424
Balances Carried Forward at 31 December 2023		111,920	95,235	189,154	396,309	383,348

All Saints Stranton Parochial Church Council

Statement of Financial Position at 31 December 2023	Note:	**2023**	**2022**
Fixed Assets			
Tangible fixed Assets	5a	182,770	184,177
Investment Assets	5b, 10	171,595	162,819
		354,365	346,996
Current Assets			
Debtors and prepaid expenses	7	13,429	72,148
Short Term Deposits		8,624	414
Cash at Bank and in Hand		67,075	43,645
		89,128	116,207
Liabilities: Amounts falling due within one year	8	47,184	79,855
Deferred grant and donation revenue (bells project)	8	-	-
Net Current (Liabilities)/ Assets		47,184	79,855
Net Assets		396,309	383,348
Funds:	6, 9, 10		
Unrestricted reserves (see below)	9	111,920	115,934
Restricted reserves (Buildings and Organ fund)	9	95,235	95,235
Endowment reserves	10	189,154	172,179
Total Reserves		396,309	383,348

Approved by resolution of the Parochial Church Council, dated 15th April 2024

Rev'd. John G Bell (Chairman)

Mr David Craig (Hon. Treasurer)

All Saints Stranton Parochial Church Council Year to 31 December 2023

Note 1 - Accounting policies

1a) Basis of Preparation

These Accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention, as modified by the revaluation of certain assets. They have been prepared to meet the requirements of the Church Accounting Regulations 2011 together with applicable Accounting Standards, the Charities Acts 2011 and 2016 and Statements of Recommended Practice. They have been prepared on an accruals basis to match income and related expenditure relating to the year under review. The statements include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible. Financial statements for various Church related activities or groups for which the PCC is not responsible are not included. Subsidiary Financial statements for the activities of the st Matthews Community Centre which are consolidated in these Accounts are available separately. The Accounts include the Endowment Trust Funds held and administered for the benefit of the PCC by the Diocese of Durham, as custodian Trustees.

1b) Fixed Assets

Fixed Assets are stated at cost: freehold land and buildings are not depreciated as in the view of the PCC the effect of depreciation of these assets would not be material to an appreciation of the PCC's financial position. Office and computer equipment furniture and fixtures are depreciated using a straight line method over a period (generally 4-5 years) estimated to reflect the useful economic life of the Assets.

1c) Investments

Investments are revalued annually and carried at the lower of realisable and current market value, the difference between cost and carrying value is recorded in a revaluation reserve where the value is greater than original cost: a provision is made for each investment asset for which the market value is less than its original cost. Reserves and provisions are not netted off. Endowment investments are revalued to lower of market or realisable value annually by the custodian trustees and any difference adjusted against endowment reserve.

1d) Stocks

Inventory (where material) is stated at the lower of cost and net realisable value and written off as expenditure when issued.

1e) Debtors

Amounts receivable are stated at the value prudently expected to be realised. Full or partial provision is made for bad or doubtful debts as soon as they become apparent.

1f) Liabilities, Provisions, deferred income and capital grants

Full estimates are made of income and capital grants received in advance and of outstanding liabilities incurred in the course of the PCC's Activities, and provision made in compliance with current relevant Financial Reporting Standards and recommended charity practice.

1g) Pensions

Paid Staff employed by the PCC (i.e. who are not stipendiary clergy licensed by the Diocese of Durham) who are eligible for Workplace pension are offered membership of the Defined Contribution Scheme operated for the PCC by Peoples Pension (formerly B&CE), this scheme complies with the national legal membership requirements and contribution rates for workplace pensions.

1h) Employment.

In 2023 The PCC employed two full time (one church and one project) and five part time (two church and three project) staff. The church policy is to review pay annually by benchmarking and to ensure that as a minimum the rate of National Living Wage is maintained.

All Saints Stranton Parochial Church Council

Statement of Cash Flows for the year ended 31 December 2022

	2023 Total	2023 Unrestricted	2023 Restricted	2023 Endowment see note 10	*2022 Total*
Operating activities					
Operating surplus / (deficit)	1,435	-4,014	-	5,449	*5,195*
				-	*0*
add items not involving movement of funds: Depreciation	1,407	1,407	-	-	*8,967*
				-	*0*
Increase/(Decrease) in Creditors	-32,671	-35,328	2,657	-	*29,492*
(Increase)/Decrease in Debtors	58,719	42,908	15,811	-	*-45,401*
Cash utilised in (2022 - generated from) operations	28,890	4,973	18,468	5,449	***-1,748***
Investing activities					
Cash generated from sale of assets	-	-	-	-	-
Cash invested in assets	-	-	-	-	-
Other investments made	-	-	-	-	-
Grants & donations (released from) / transferred to deferred income	-	-	-	-	*-51,280*
Cash (utilised) in investing activities - (Audiovisual System 2021)	-	-	-	-	-
total cash movements from Operating and Investing activities	**28,890**	**4,973**	**18,468**	**5,449**	***-53,028***
Represented by:					
Church Current account increase (2022 - decrease) in balances	21,083	2,615	18,468	-	*-65,820*
Community Centre Current Account increase in balance	2,346	2,346	-	-	*3,851*
Deposit account increase in balance	11	11	-	-	*4*
Decrease (2021- increase) in cash balances (Community Centre)	-		-	-	*-38*
Increase in endowment cash balances (Custodian balances)	5,449	-	-	5,449	*8,975*
Net Movement in liquid balances	**28,890**	**4,973**	**18,468**	**5,449**	***-53,028***

All Saints Stranton Parochial Church Council

Notes to the Financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2023

Heading **2 Incoming resources**	**Unrestricted Funds**	**Restricted Funds**	**Endowment Funds**	**TOTAL 2023**	**FUNDS 2022**
2a Incoming resources from donors					
Planned Giving					
Gift Aided	40,240	-	-	40,240	41,799
Income Tax recoverable on Gift Aid inc donations	10,060	-	-	10,060	10,450
other income tax recoverable	-	-	-	-	-
other Voluntary giving	16,215	-	-	16,215	17,400
Other collections	5,467	-	-	5,467	4,017
Gift Day	-	-	-	-	-
Bell restoration appeal - donations (deferred income see note 3b)	-	-	-	-	-
Communities of Hope - Other income	-	8,488	-	8,488	6,074
	71,982	8,488	-	80,470	79,740
2b Other voluntary incoming resources					
Grants - not including Capital Grants	4,531		-	4,531	6,058
Bell restoration appeal - Gift aid Tax recovered	-		-	-	-
Bell restoration appeal - 2022 Grants - incl LPOW VAT	-	-	-	-	35,060
Communities of Hope - External Grants	-	1,695	-	1,695	5,205
Communities of Hope - SDF funding via Diocese	-	59,528	-	59,528	67,879
Appeals etc	-		-	-	496
Legacies and Donations,	-394	85	-	-309	22,488
Income tax recoverable on Gift Aided Donations		7,463	-	7,463	3,669
Fundraising			-	-	-
	4,137	68,771	-	72,908	140,855
2c Income from Charitable and ancillary Trading					
Magazines and book sales	-	-	-	-	-
Lettings (Halls etc) contribution	20,485	-	-	20,485	25,385
Fees	5,480	-	-	5,480	6,279
Rents receivable and other income	2,886	-	-	2,886	85
	28,851	-	-	28,851	31,749
2d Other ordinary incoming resources					
Contribution to secretarial costs	-	-	-	-	-
Insurance claims	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
2e Income from investments					
Dividends, interest and bonuses including adjustment (note 10)	1,333	-	5,449	6,782	9,242
Total Incoming Resources:	106,303	77,259	5,449	189,011	261,586

All Saints Stranton Parochial Church Council

Notes to the Financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2023

3. Resources Expended	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	**TOTAL 2023**	**FUNDS 2022**
3a Grants made					
Missionary and Charitable Giving					
Overseas mission	3,750	-	-	3,750	3,000
Relief & development agencies	-	-	-	-	0
Home misssions and other Church Societies	1,350	-	-	1,350	4,729
	5,100	-	-	5,100	7,729
3b Activities directly related to the work of the Church					
Ministry:					
Parish Share	38,775	-	-	38,775	35,250
Communities of Hope Hartlepool Staff costs	-	46,962	-	46,962	62,464
Communities of Hope other operating costs and deferred income	-	22,749		22,749	16,694
Staff expenses,	1,759	-	-	1,759	2,125
Property costs - staff accommodation	281	-	-	281	402
Church running expenses, excl hall recharge	12,512	-	-	12,512	13,189
Church repairs and maintenance	7,930	-	-	7,930	2,683
Recruitment and training costs incl DBS certification	201	-	-	201	34
Ministry costs excluding Pay cost -Burbank, Youth and families Work	722	-	-	722	3,786
Magazine - costs included in Stationery	-	-	-	-	0
Church hall running costs	14,959	-	-	14,959	14,446
Professional fees,surveys etc - (2021 included in capital expenditure)	0	-	-	0	1,500
Parish lay worker remuneration	7,875		-	7,875	22,506
Cost of parish events	-		-	-	0
Deferred Income to 2022 Bells restoration (see note 2b)	-	-	-	-	0
Current and accrued Expenditure - Bells restoration	-	7,548	-	7,548	42,225
	85,015	77,259	-	162,274	217,304
3c Fundraising and publicity					
costs associated with generating funds	0	-	-	0	1,765
3c Fundraising and publicity	0	-	-	0	1,765
3d Church management and administration					
Administrator remuneration incl pension contribution, and expenses	13,713	-	-	13,713	16,193
Stationery and printing	1,620	-	-	1,620	1,551
Hall overhead	3,059	-	-	3,059	2,465
Depreciation equipment & computers	1,407	-	-	1,407	8,967
Bank Charges	402	-	-	402	418
Legal and professional fees / costs .	-	-	-	-	0
					0
	20,201	-	-	20,201	29,593
Total Resources Expended:	110,316	77,259	-	187,575	256,391

All Saints Stranton Parochial Church Council

Notes to the Financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2023

4. Staff costs

Clergy stipends are paid by the Diocese: all other remuneration shown under note 3b and 3d was paid to the Parish lay worker, parish administrator and from October 2020 to the staff working on behalf of the Central Hartlepool Group of Parishes in the Communities of Hope Hartlepool - a project funded by the Diocese of Durham, and include social security costs and pension contributions made under a defined benefit scheme operated by Peoples Pension

5. Fixed Assets

5a Tangible fixed Assets		Freehold Land And Buildings	Equipment, fixtures and IT Assets	TOTAL
Gross book value	At 1 January 2023	178,551	48,866	227,417
	Revaluations	-	-	-
	Disposals	-	-	-
	Additions:	-	-	-
	Capital Grants applied	-	-	-
	At 31 December 2023	178,551	48,866	227,417
Depreciation	At 1 January 2023		43,240	43,240
	Disposals		-	-
	Charge for the year/impairment		1,407	1,407
	At 31 December 2023		44,647	44,647
Net Book Value	**At 31 December 2023**	**178,551**	**4,219**	**182,770**
	At 31 December 2022	**178,551**	**5,626**	**184,177**

Freehold land and buildings comprise St Matthew's Community Hall, and staff house accommodation at 10 Clarkson Court:
Other Tangible Fixed assets are amortised over periods estimated to reflect their economic lives from the date of acquisition, generally 4 to 5 years. Assets scrapped/sold are disposals
The Church building is not included in the statement of financial position as it has no historic cost record. Church buildings are insured for reinstatement costs
The Audio Equipment installed in church in 2020 has been subject to accelerated depreciation over 2 years in view of the potential for obsolescence and likely realisable value

5b Investments:

The PCC does not directly hold any investments but receives income from certain designated trust funds held by Durham Diocese as custodian
As the PCC is the ultimate beneficiary of these funds they have been included in these accounts
see **note 10** for an analysis of these custodian funds and their realised and unrealised changes in valuation.

6 Analysis of net assets by fund	**Unrestricted Funds**	**Restricted Funds**	**Endowment Funds**	**Total 2023**	**Total 2022**
Fixed Assets	97,087	85,683	-	182,770	184,177
Endowment investment funds	-	-	171,595	171,595	162,819
Current Assets	46,643	24,926	17,559	89,128	116,207
Deferred Grants and donations revenue see notes 2b and 3b				-	0
Current Liabilities	-31,810	-15,374	-	-47,184	-79,855
	111,920	95,235	189,154	396,309	383,348

7 Debtors:

	2023	**2022**
Tax Recoverable	4,091	20,876
other debtors/receivables	9,338	8,997
	13,429	72,148

8. Liabilities - amounts falling due within one year:

	2023	**2022**
Accruals and deferred income	33,881	41,250
Creditors for goods and services	6,143	27,091
Other Provision: mission support	8,000	8,000
Deferred grant and donations - restricted income: (bells project)	-	-
Other creditors: Tax and NIC	-	3,514
	48,024	79,855

9: Funds

	Unrestricted	**Restricted**	**Note 10 Endowment**	**Total 2023**	**2022**
Unrestricted and Restricted Capital (Buildings) reserves	42,292	85,683	179,794	307,769	290,794
Unrestricted - St Matthew's Hall Management Committee	62,759			62,759	63,115
Unrestricted - General Fund:	6,869			6,869	10,527
Restricted: Organ Fund £7,552 and Restoration Bequest £2,000		9,552		9,552	9,552
			9,360	9,360	9,360
	111,920	95,235	189,154	396,309	383,348

Locally managed endowment funds consist of a number of specific legacies, the income from which may be used for the general purposes of the PCC:
Other Endowment funds are "custodian" funds invested by the Diocese of Durham on behalf of the parish as shown in note 10

All Saints Stranton Parochial Church Council
Notes to the Financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2022

Note 10 Investment assets

These accounts include the consolidation of endowment funds held in trust on the PCC's behalf:
by the Diocese of Durham. These funds are ultimately under the control of the PCC for church purposes, subject to endown restrictions in each Trust deed.

The funds are invested in low risk investment funds and interest bearing deposits in accordance with Diocesan investment polic

	Valuation 1/1/22	2022 financial year income	2022 financial year investment gain/loss	Valuation 31/12/22	2023 financial year income	2023 financial year investment gain/loss	Valuation 31/12/23	Notes
Tithe Act	6,502		-762	5,739		545	6,284	interest remi
Brunswick St	7,291			7,291			7,291	
Interest	446	102		548	360		908	
Windrim	130,428		-15,285	115,142		10,928	126,070	see note 10.
Interest	23,588	8,832		32,420	5,033		37,453	
Church	1,380		-99	1,281		53	1,334	
Interest	356	41		397	56		453	
Investment reserve	**169,990**			**162,819**			**179,794**	
Interest realised		**8,975**			**5,449**			
Investment Gain/(Loss)			**-16,146**			**11,526**		

10.1 The Windrim Trust (income only) is to be used for the maintenance and improvement of the Fabric of the Chur

Note 11 Related party transactions

The charity did not enter into any financial transactions, remuneration arrangements or contracts involving trustees or related parties in the financial year to 31 December 2023 or in the financial year to 31 December 2022

All Saints Stranton Parochial Church Council
Restricted funds 2023

	Communities of Hope	Bells appeal	Total
Grants & Donations			
Sir John Priestman Charity 2022		8000.00	8000.00
C Cookson Trust 2022		4000.00	4000.00
All Churches Trust 2022		3400.00	3400.00
Donations (individual) 2022		35880.00	35880.00
Diocese of Durham 2023		4000.00	4000.00
Northumbria Historic Churches Trust		5000.00	5000.00
Durham and Northumbria Bellringers		10000.00	10000.00
CCBR		2000.00	2000.00
Donations 2023		7165.00	7165.00
Contribution from contractor		85.00	85.00
LPOW VAT Grant		14060.17	14060.17
HMRC Gift aid Tax reclaimed		7462.50	7462.50
SDF funds via Diocese of Durham	59528.00		59528.00
Other sources of Income - HAF	8488.00		8488.00
DBF missional Grant	500.00		500.00
Grants <£1000	1195.00		1195.00
Total Project income (Bells) to date	69711.00	101052.67	170763.67
less: recognised in prior year(s) itemised abo	0.00	-93505.17	-93505.17
total restricted income 2022	69711.00	7547.50	77258.50
Project expenditure			
Capital Grant St Matthews CC			
Group parishes; premises expenditure	9579.00		9579.00
other Operating costs and future commitment	10514.00		10514.00
Suppliers and contractors - Repairs and refurbishments		7547.50	7547.50
less costs accrued in previous period			
Salaries costs	46962.00		46962.00
Accrued costs and contractual liabilities	2656.00		2656.00
Total Restricted Expenditure	69711.00	7547.50	77258.50

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish

of

All Saints, Stranton

Registered Charity No. 1134753

Accounts for the Year to 31 December 2023

Independent Examiner's Certificate for Stranton PCC Accounts: Charity Number: 1134753

I report to the trustees of: All Saints Stranton Parochial Church Council on accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act), and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

Independent examiner's statement:

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the following requirements have not been met:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act;
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with
- the accounting requirements of the Charities Act;
- to account for statutory fees correctly.

2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed: Clive Rathbone Date: April 26th 2024

21 Wolviston Road, Hartlepool

All Saints Stranton Parochial Church Council

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 December 2023

	Note:	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	TOTAL 2023	FUNDS 2022
Incoming resources						
Incoming resources from donors	2a	71,982	8,488	-	80,470	79,740
Other voluntary incoming resources	2b	4,137	68,771	-	72,908	140,855
Income from charitable and ancillary trading	2c	28,851	-	-	28,851	31,749
Other ordinary incoming resources	2d	-	-	-	-	-
Income from investments	2e, 10	1,333	-	5,449	6,782	9,242
Total incoming resources		106,303	77,259	5,449	189,011	261,586
Resources Expended						
Grants to Home and overseas mission and other charities	3a	5,100	-	-	5,100	7,729
Activities Directly relating to the work of the Church	3b	85,015	77,259	-	162,274	202,858
Fund Raising and Publicity	3c	0.00	-	-	0	1,765
Church Management and Administration	3d	20,201	-	-	20,201	29,593
Total resources Expended		110,316	77,259	-	187,575	241,945
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources: Church & see note 10	**-3,658**					
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources: Community Centre	**-356**	**-4,014**	-	**5,449**	**1,435**	**5,070**
Other Net Gains/losses: Investment revaluation	10	-	-	**11,526**	**11,526**	**-16,146**
Net movement in funds		**-4,014**		**16,975**	**12,961**	**-11,076**
Balances Brought Forward at 1 January 2023		115,934	95,235	172,179	383,348	394,424
Balances Carried Forward at 31 December 2023		111,920	95,235	189,154	396,309	383,348

All Saints Stranton Parochial Church Council

Statement of Financial Position at 31 December 2023	Note:	**2023**	**2022**
Fixed Assets			
Tangible fixed Assets	5a	182,770	184,177
Investment Assets	5b, 10	171,595	162,819
		354,365	346,996
Current Assets			
Debtors and prepaid expenses	7	13,429	72,148
Short Term Deposits		8,624	414
Cash at Bank and in Hand		67,075	43,645
		89,128	116,207
Liabilities: Amounts falling due within one year	8	47,184	79,855
Deferred grant and donation revenue (bells project)	8	-	-
Net Current (Liabilities)/ Assets		47,184	79,855
Net Assets		396,309	383,348
Funds:	6, 9, 10		
Unrestricted reserves (see below)	9	111,920	115,934
Restricted reserves (Buildings and Organ fund)	9	95,235	95,235
Endowment reserves	10	189,154	172,179
Total Reserves		396,309	383,348

Approved by resolution of the Parochial Church Council, dated 15th April 2024

Rev'd. John G Bell (Chairman)

Mr David Craig (Hon. Treasurer)

All Saints Stranton Parochial Church Council Year to 31 December 2023

Note 1 - Accounting policies

1a) Basis of Preparation

These Accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention, as modified by the revaluation of certain assets. They have been prepared to meet the requirements of the Church Accounting Regulations 2011 together with applicable Accounting Standards, the Charities Acts 2011 and 2016 and Statements of Recommended Practice. They have been prepared on an accruals basis to match income and related expenditure relating to the year under review. The statements include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible. Financial statements for various Church related activities or groups for which the PCC is not responsible are not included. Subsidiary Financial statements for the activities of the st Matthews Community Centre which are consolidated in these Accounts are available separately. The Accounts include the Endowment Trust Funds held and administered for the benefit of the PCC by the Diocese of Durham, as custodian Trustees.

1b) Fixed Assets

Fixed Assets are stated at cost: freehold land and buildings are not depreciated as in the view of the PCC the effect of depreciation of these assets would not be material to an appreciation of the PCC's financial position. Office and computer equipment furniture and fixtures are depreciated using a straight line method over a period (generally 4-5 years) estimated to reflect the useful economic life of the Assets.

1c) Investments

Investments are revalued annually and carried at the lower of realisable and current market value, the difference between cost and carrying value is recorded in a revaluation reserve where the value is greater than original cost: a provision is made for each investment asset for which the market value is less than its original cost. Reserves and provisions are not netted off. Endowment investments are revalued to lower of market or realisable value annually by the custodian trustees and any difference adjusted against endowment reserve.

1d) Stocks

Inventory (where material) is stated at the lower of cost and net realisable value and written off as expenditure when issued.

1e) Debtors

Amounts receivable are stated at the value prudently expected to be realised. Full or partial provision is made for bad or doubtful debts as soon as they become apparent.

1f) Liabilities, Provisions, deferred income and capital grants

Full estimates are made of income and capital grants received in advance and of outstanding liabilities incurred in the course of the PCC's Activities, and provision made in compliance with current relevant Financial Reporting Standards and recommended charity practice.

1g) Pensions

Paid Staff employed by the PCC (i.e. who are not stipendiary clergy licensed by the Diocese of Durham) who are eligible for Workplace pension are offered membership of the Defined Contribution Scheme operated for the PCC by Peoples Pension (formerly B&CE), this scheme complies with the national legal membership requirements and contribution rates for workplace pensions.

1h) Employment.

In 2023 The PCC employed two full time (one church and one project) and five part time (two church and three project) staff. The church policy is to review pay annually by benchmarking and to ensure that as a minimum the rate of National Living Wage is maintained.

All Saints Stranton Parochial Church Council

Statement of Cash Flows for the year ended 31 December 2022

	2023 Total	2023 Unrestricted	2023 Restricted	2023 Endowment see note 10	*2022 Total*
Operating activities					
Operating surplus / (deficit)	1,435	-4,014	-	5,449	*5,195*
				-	*0*
add items not involving movement of funds: Depreciation	1,407	1,407	-	-	*8,967*
				-	*0*
Increase/(Decrease) in Creditors	-32,671	-35,328	2,657	-	*29,492*
(Increase)/Decrease in Debtors	58,719	42,908	15,811	-	*-45,401*
Cash utilised in (2022 - generated from) operations	28,890	4,973	18,468	5,449	***-1,748***
Investing activities					
Cash generated from sale of assets	-	-	-	-	-
Cash invested in assets	-	-	-	-	-
Other investments made	-	-	-	-	-
Grants & donations (released from) / transferred to deferred income	-	-	-	-	*-51,280*
Cash (utilised) in investing activities - (Audiovisual System 2021)	-	-	-	-	-
total cash movements from Operating and Investing activities	**28,890**	**4,973**	**18,468**	**5,449**	***-53,028***
Represented by:					
Church Current account increase (2022 - decrease) in balances	21,083	2,615	18,468	-	*-65,820*
Community Centre Current Account increase in balance	2,346	2,346	-	-	*3,851*
Deposit account increase in balance	11	11	-	-	*4*
Decrease (2021- increase) in cash balances (Community Centre)	-		-	-	*-38*
Increase in endowment cash balances (Custodian balances)	5,449	-	-	5,449	*8,975*
Net Movement in liquid balances	**28,890**	**4,973**	**18,468**	**5,449**	***-53,028***

All Saints Stranton Parochial Church Council

Notes to the Financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2023

Heading **2 Incoming resources**	**Unrestricted Funds**	**Restricted Funds**	**Endowment Funds**	**TOTAL 2023**	**FUNDS 2022**
2a Incoming resources from donors					
Planned Giving					
Gift Aided	40,240	-	-	40,240	41,799
Income Tax recoverable on Gift Aid inc donations	10,060	-	-	10,060	10,450
other income tax recoverable	-	-	-	-	-
other Voluntary giving	16,215	-	-	16,215	17,400
Other collections	5,467	-	-	5,467	4,017
Gift Day	-	-	-	-	-
Bell restoration appeal - donations (deferred income see note 3b)	-	-	-	-	-
Communities of Hope - Other income	-	8,488	-	8,488	6,074
	71,982	8,488	-	80,470	79,740
2b Other voluntary incoming resources					
Grants - not including Capital Grants	4,531		-	4,531	6,058
Bell restoration appeal - Gift aid Tax recovered	-		-	-	-
Bell restoration appeal - 2022 Grants - incl LPOW VAT	-	-	-	-	35,060
Communities of Hope - External Grants	-	1,695	-	1,695	5,205
Communities of Hope - SDF funding via Diocese	-	59,528	-	59,528	67,879
Appeals etc	-		-	-	496
Legacies and Donations,	-394	85	-	-309	22,488
Income tax recoverable on Gift Aided Donations		7,463	-	7,463	3,669
Fundraising			-	-	-
	4,137	68,771	-	72,908	140,855
2c Income from Charitable and ancillary Trading					
Magazines and book sales	-	-	-	-	-
Lettings (Halls etc) contribution	20,485	-	-	20,485	25,385
Fees	5,480	-	-	5,480	6,279
Rents receivable and other income	2,886	-	-	2,886	85
	28,851	-	-	28,851	31,749
2d Other ordinary incoming resources					
Contribution to secretarial costs	-	-	-	-	-
Insurance claims	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
2e Income from investments					
Dividends, interest and bonuses including adjustment (note 10)	1,333	-	5,449	6,782	9,242
Total Incoming Resources:	106,303	77,259	5,449	189,011	261,586

All Saints Stranton Parochial Church Council

Notes to the Financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2023

3. Resources Expended	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	**TOTAL 2023**	**FUNDS 2022**
3a Grants made					
Missionary and Charitable Giving					
Overseas mission	3,750	-	-	3,750	3,000
Relief & development agencies	-	-	-	-	0
Home misssions and other Church Societies	1,350	-	-	1,350	4,729
	5,100	-	-	5,100	7,729
3b Activities directly related to the work of the Church					
Ministry:					
Parish Share	38,775	-	-	38,775	35,250
Communities of Hope Hartlepool Staff costs	-	46,962	-	46,962	62,464
Communities of Hope other operating costs and deferred income	-	22,749		22,749	16,694
Staff expenses,	1,759	-	-	1,759	2,125
Property costs - staff accommodation	281	-	-	281	402
Church running expenses, excl hall recharge	12,512	-	-	12,512	13,189
Church repairs and maintenance	7,930	-	-	7,930	2,683
Recruitment and training costs incl DBS certification	201	-	-	201	34
Ministry costs excluding Pay cost -Burbank, Youth and families Work	722	-	-	722	3,786
Magazine - costs included in Stationery	-	-	-	-	0
Church hall running costs	14,959	-	-	14,959	14,446
Professional fees,surveys etc - (2021 included in capital expenditure)	0	-	-	0	1,500
Parish lay worker remuneration	7,875		-	7,875	22,506
Cost of parish events	-		-	-	0
Deferred Income to 2022 Bells restoration (see note 2b)	-	-	-	-	0
Current and accrued Expenditure - Bells restoration	-	7,548	-	7,548	42,225
	85,015	77,259	-	162,274	217,304
3c Fundraising and publicity					
costs associated with generating funds	0	-	-	0	1,765
3c Fundraising and publicity	0	-	-	0	1,765
3d Church management and administration					
Administrator remuneration incl pension contribution, and expenses	13,713	-	-	13,713	16,193
Stationery and printing	1,620	-	-	1,620	1,551
Hall overhead	3,059	-	-	3,059	2,465
Depreciation equipment & computers	1,407	-	-	1,407	8,967
Bank Charges	402	-	-	402	418
Legal and professional fees / costs .	-	-	-	-	0
					0
	20,201	-	-	20,201	29,593
Total Resources Expended:	110,316	77,259	-	187,575	256,391

All Saints Stranton Parochial Church Council

Notes to the Financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2023

4. Staff costs

Clergy stipends are paid by the Diocese: all other remuneration shown under note 3b and 3d was paid to the Parish lay worker, parish administrator and from October 2020 to the staff working on behalf of the Central Hartlepool Group of Parishes in the Communities of Hope Hartlepool - a project funded by the Diocese of Durham, and include social security costs and pension contributions made under a defined benefit scheme operated by Peoples Pension

5. Fixed Assets

5a Tangible fixed Assets		Freehold Land And Buildings	Equipment, fixtures and IT Assets	TOTAL
Gross book value	At 1 January 2023	178,551	48,866	227,417
	Revaluations	-	-	-
	Disposals	-	-	-
	Additions:	-	-	-
	Capital Grants applied	-	-	-
	At 31 December 2023	178,551	48,866	227,417
Depreciation	At 1 January 2023		43,240	43,240
	Disposals		-	-
	Charge for the year/impairment		1,407	1,407
	At 31 December 2023		44,647	44,647
Net Book Value	**At 31 December 2023**	**178,551**	**4,219**	**182,770**
	At 31 December 2022	**178,551**	**5,626**	**184,177**

Freehold land and buildings comprise St Matthew's Community Hall, and staff house accommodation at 10 Clarkson Court:
Other Tangible Fixed assets are amortised over periods estimated to reflect their economic lives from the date of acquisition, generally 4 to 5 years. Assets scrapped/sold are disposals
The Church building is not included in the statement of financial position as it has no historic cost record. Church buildings are insured for reinstatement costs
The Audio Equipment installed in church in 2020 has been subject to accelerated depreciation over 2 years in view of the potential for obsolescence and likely realisable value

5b Investments:

The PCC does not directly hold any investments but receives income from certain designated trust funds held by Durham Diocese as custodian
As the PCC is the ultimate beneficiary of these funds they have been included in these accounts
see **note 10** for an analysis of these custodian funds and their realised and unrealised changes in valuation.

6 Analysis of net assets by fund	**Unrestricted Funds**	**Restricted Funds**	**Endowment Funds**	**Total 2023**	**Total 2022**
Fixed Assets	97,087	85,683	-	182,770	184,177
Endowment investment funds	-	-	171,595	171,595	162,819
Current Assets	46,643	24,926	17,559	89,128	116,207
Deferred Grants and donations revenue see notes 2b and 3b				-	0
Current Liabilities	-31,810	-15,374	-	-47,184	-79,855
	111,920	95,235	189,154	396,309	383,348

7 Debtors:

	2023	**2022**
Tax Recoverable	4,091	20,876
other debtors/receivables	9,338	8,997
	13,429	72,148

8. Liabilities - amounts falling due within one year:

	2023	**2022**
Accruals and deferred income	33,881	41,250
Creditors for goods and services	6,143	27,091
Other Provision: mission support	8,000	8,000
Deferred grant and donations - restricted income: (bells project)	-	-
Other creditors: Tax and NIC	-	3,514
	48,024	79,855

9: Funds

	Unrestricted	**Restricted**	**Note 10 Endowment**	**Total 2023**	**2022**
Unrestricted and Restricted Capital (Buildings) reserves	42,292	85,683	179,794	307,769	290,794
Unrestricted - St Matthew's Hall Management Committee	62,759			62,759	63,115
Unrestricted - General Fund:	6,869			6,869	10,527
Restricted: Organ Fund £7,552 and Restoration Bequest £2,000		9,552		9,552	9,552
			9,360	9,360	9,360
	111,920	95,235	189,154	396,309	383,348

Locally managed endowment funds consist of a number of specific legacies, the income from which may be used for the general purposes of the PCC:
Other Endowment funds are "custodian" funds invested by the Diocese of Durham on behalf of the parish as shown in note 10

All Saints Stranton Parochial Church Council
Notes to the Financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2022

Note 10 Investment assets

These accounts include the consolidation of endowment funds held in trust on the PCC's behalf:
by the Diocese of Durham. These funds are ultimately under the control of the PCC for church purposes, subject to endown restrictions in each Trust deed.

The funds are invested in low risk investment funds and interest bearing deposits in accordance with Diocesan investment polic

	Valuation 1/1/22	2022 financial year income	2022 financial year investment gain/loss	Valuation 31/12/22	2023 financial year income	2023 financial year investment gain/loss	Valuation 31/12/23	Notes
Tithe Act	6,502		-762	5,739		545	6,284	interest remi
Brunswick St	7,291			7,291			7,291	
Interest	446	102		548	360		908	
Windrim	130,428		-15,285	115,142		10,928	126,070	see note 10.
Interest	23,588	8,832		32,420	5,033		37,453	
Church	1,380		-99	1,281		53	1,334	
Interest	356	41		397	56		453	
Investment reserve	**169,990**			**162,819**			**179,794**	
Interest realised		**8,975**			**5,449**			
Investment Gain/(Loss)			**-16,146**			**11,526**		

10.1 The Windrim Trust (income only) is to be used for the maintenance and improvement of the Fabric of the Chur

Note 11 Related party transactions

The charity did not enter into any financial transactions, remuneration arrangements or contracts involving trustees or related parties in the financial year to 31 December 2023 or in the financial year to 31 December 2022

All Saints Stranton Parochial Church Council
Restricted funds 2023

	Communities of Hope	Bells appeal	Total
Grants & Donations			
Sir John Priestman Charity 2022		8000.00	8000.00
C Cookson Trust 2022		4000.00	4000.00
All Churches Trust 2022		3400.00	3400.00
Donations (individual) 2022		35880.00	35880.00
Diocese of Durham 2023		4000.00	4000.00
Northumbria Historic Churches Trust		5000.00	5000.00
Durham and Northumbria Bellringers		10000.00	10000.00
CCBR		2000.00	2000.00
Donations 2023		7165.00	7165.00
Contribution from contractor		85.00	85.00
LPOW VAT Grant		14060.17	14060.17
HMRC Gift aid Tax reclaimed		7462.50	7462.50
SDF funds via Diocese of Durham	59528.00		59528.00
Other sources of Income - HAF	8488.00		8488.00
DBF missional Grant	500.00		500.00
Grants <£1000	1195.00		1195.00
Total Project income (Bells) to date	69711.00	101052.67	170763.67
less: recognised in prior year(s) itemised abo	0.00	-93505.17	-93505.17
total restricted income 2022	69711.00	7547.50	77258.50
Project expenditure			
Capital Grant St Matthews CC			
Group parishes; premises expenditure	9579.00		9579.00
other Operating costs and future commitment	10514.00		10514.00
Suppliers and contractors - Repairs and refurbishments		7547.50	7547.50
less costs accrued in previous period			
Salaries costs	46962.00		46962.00
Accrued costs and contractual liabilities	2656.00		2656.00
Total Restricted Expenditure	69711.00	7547.50	77258.50

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ALL SAINTS, STRANTON

England & Wales - Charity number 1134753

Accounts

ALL SAINTS, STRANTON CHURCH
HARTLEPOOL

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2022



Rooted in God's love,
Growing together with Jesus,
Branching out in the power of the Spirit.

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Vicar's Report for Stranton Church 2022

It feels really unusual writing a report for the year, having only been here for 6 weeks of it, and a lot of the credit must go to the churchwardens for their help in pulling this together.

2022 was a year of change for Stranton Church. Over the course of the year, we have said goodbye to Norman and Julie Shave, following Norman's retirement after many years of service to our church and to the group, and more recently we said farewell to Michelle Delves, who in December moved onto her new role in Colne. At the time of writing, we now know we will also be saying farewell to Clive and Angela Hall, as Clive takes up his new role in Withernsea. We are hugely grateful for their faithful and devoted service to our church and our community.

Particular thanks go to: the ministry team (Mary Tones (Lay Reader), Revd Kevin Tones, and Revd Andrew Craig) who have supported us (alongside Michelle and Clive) through the vacancy and who continue to support us in our praise and worship of God; our music group, led by Ang (and soon to be led by Jordan); to our readers, intercessors, servers, assistant wardens, and tech team, who help to make our services what they are; to our PCC who have led us capably through the vacancy, with special thanks to Andrew Rogers as Lay Chair, and David Craig for his many years of service as our treasurer; to Trish in the church office, and Maureen our PCC Secretary and Assistant Treasurer; to our Youth and Children's teams (under the leadership of Kate and Clive); and to you, to all of you, for your support of the church and all who have helped lead and serve it through the vacancy. There are so many people who have been involved in so many different aspects of church life that without all of you, our church would not continue to survive or thrive.

With so many changes affecting much of what we have been doing together, we now have an opportunity to reflect on what God wants us to do next, on what our priorities need to be in the coming years. We need to look at our resources – our time, our talents, our gifts – and see where God wants to lead us. The next period will be a challenge, particularly for our ministry team, as we seek to serve the community across the whole Central Hartlepool Group. It's a challenge we look forward to, a challenge we embrace, because God has a plan for us and for our community.

And from me, specifically, thank you all for the way in which you have welcomed Rebecca, Sophie, Daniel and myself into the church family here. Thank you for your love and your care, your support and your prayers, for all you have done for us and for all you continue to do for the Kingdom.

Every Blessing,

Revd John

(With a lot of help from our Church Wardens, Angela and Rohan)

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

All Saints, Stranton Church is situated in Church Row, Hartlepool TS24 7QT. It is part of the Diocese of Durham within the Church of England. The correspondence address is Stranton Church Office, St Matthew's Community Centre, Arncliffe Gardens Entrance, Hartlepool TS26 9JF.

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a charity excepted from registration with the Charity Commission

PCC members who have served from 1st January 2021 until the date this report was approved are:

Vicar:	The Rev'd Norman Shave	Chairperson *until 30th June 2022*
Priest in Charge:	The Rev'd John Bell	Chairperson *from 13th November 2022*
Wardens:	Mrs Angela Craig Mr Rohan Wanduragala	

Representatives on the Deanery Synod:

Mr Andrew Rogers
Mrs Sylvia Shepherd

Elected members:

Mrs Maureen Anderson	Secretary
Mr Paul Anderson	*from 24th April 2022*
Mr David Craig	Treasurer
Mrs Diane Greenwood	
Mr David House	
Miss Kate Lawson	*from 24th April 2022*
Mrs Cheryl Mills	
Mrs Jacqui Rogers	
Mrs Mary Tones	

Ex-officio members:

Rev'd Michelle Delves

Co-opted members:

Mr Clive Hall

The full PCC met seven times during the year with an average level of attendance of 83%. Committees met between meetings and minutes of their deliberations were received by the full PCC and discussed where necessary.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All Church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

ELECTORAL ROLL

There are 96 parishioners on the Church Electoral Roll, parish. Six names were added and three names removed during the year.

Ken Shepherd
Electoral Roll Officer

FINANCE REPORT

In presenting the Financial Accounts for 2022, I am pleased to report that although we had expected mid-way through 2022 to incur a substantial deficit on the General Fund, of £9,000+, there was an improvement in costs and revenues in the final quarter of 2022 that reduced the out-turn deficit to a more manageable £6.673.

St Matthew's Community Centre, although it operates financially at "Arm's Length" and retains its own financial surplus to maintain its buildings and services is nevertheless part of our Charity and accountable to the PCC under charity law and regulation. It returned a surplus of £2,768 for the year, smaller than last year but showing promising signs of increased community use and importantly after absorbing the costs of a substantial upgrade to the Kitchens.

The Diocese has asked that we include directly in our annual statutory accounts the investments and reserves of the Endowment Trust Funds for Stranton church for which they act as "custodian". This change was perhaps overdue but necessitated a major revision affecting the basis for accounts which is described in detail in note 10. The results of this change are that we can now see easily the funds available to us and include as endowment income the interest generated by these funds in

our accounts and track the changes in investment values at each year end. The accounts for 2022 and the comparative figures for 2021 have been adjusted accordingly.

The challenges and financial highlights of the year included:

- The "Bells project" which started with planning and fundraising in 2021 has been largely completed in 2022 - a project excellently managed and supported by many of the Bellringers themselves, with leadership from our Church Architect, Churchwarden Rohan Wanduragala and Bellringer Andrew Frost. The bells are now fully operational and while the final stonework repairs have been slow and complicated, the end is in sight.
- Continuing to host the Hartlepool Communities of Hope Team Project, with a successful summer children's activities programme at St Matthew's CC and many other events held both regularly and occasionally across the Central Hartlepool Group of Parishes.

In both these continuing projects I have carried forward unspent resources as deferred income against future costs.

We have met our Parish "Share" commitment to the diocese and continue to support overseas and home mission.

On behalf of the PCC, and in thanks to God for the faithful spirit shown by our congregations, I acknowledge and celebrate the generosity of our members. As always I give thanks for your committed financial support, and add my encouragement to participate in the fullness of Christ's Kingdom through prayer-led giving in line with scriptural principles. I am aware that people are differently affected by high cost of living increases and income restrictions with many making sacrificial giving a priority.

As always I record my particular thanks to key individuals who make essential contributions of their time and skills to the financial resourcing (in the widest sense) of the Church. Especially I thank Maureen Anderson, our assistant treasurer and PCC secretary, who has the considerable daily tasks of controlling our bank accounts and cash books; Ken Shepherd and the members of the Cash counting team; also Trish Playfor the Parish Administrator and others - not least the faithful regular members who commit to sustained giving for the maintenance of the ministry of our Church. I also thank our Independent Examiner Clive Rathbone for his diligence and for his gracious provision of time and expertise in reviewing these accounts to ensure objectively and independently that the meet necessary legal and professional standards.

David Craig
Hon Treasurer, April 2023

BUILDING AND FABRIC OF THE CHURCH

Thank you to everyone, who in whatever way, were able to help make the church a house of prayer and worship, a place of welcome and friendship. The duties you performed and continue to perform, whether large or small, noticed or unnoticed, acknowledged or not: the word of God read, the word preached, praises sung, music played the church cleaned, prayers said, people loved and prayed for and welcomed, the garden tended, refreshments provided and served and many more would not happen or wouldn't be the same without you.

A big 'Thank you' from the Churchwardens,

We are so blessed to now have as our vicar John Bell and welcome him, his wife Rebecca and children Sophie and Daniel.

Goodbyes to Norman and Julie, Michelle, Rachel and Seth. And now we say good bye to Clive and Angela, with great gratitude for their years of loyal and loving service to Stranton and the Burbank Community.

Thanks to Peter Anderson and David House our assistant churchwardens for their help and guidance.

We give particular thanks to Clive, Angela and Michelle for making our time in vacancy pass relatively smoothly.

We have been encouraged by increasing cooperation particularly with St Luke's congregation and with joint services across the whole group. Looking forwards, with the reduced number of priests now serving in our group, all of the congregation needs to take their part in supporting Revd John and the running of Stranton Church. I encourage you to be involved and join in work parties, bereavement support, visiting other members working with the pastoral group, weekday house groups, or cleaning the church. Every little helps. We are urged in scripture not to stop meeting together to encourage one another. Hebrews 10: 25.

It is good to see succession for music worship leading and more involvement with children and families, and the support given to this by Hayley Liversidge of the "Communities of Hope team. "

1. **Buildings**:

   Quinquennial Inspection

   The report was received in July 2022. It Identified 2 key tasks: repairs to the Church tower stonework and re-covering of Tower roof. We need to work towards completing these in the next 5 years. The first of these will require considerable resources and effort. We have now started to address this, having commissioned and received a report by the church architect. A significant fund raising effort will be required by us to enable this work to be undertaken. In doing this we will honour the legacy of past generations for maintaining this place of worship and witness. Also we in turn will be doing our part to ensure the ongoing work of the church.

   Routine Inspections/service:

   - Heating: Annual boiler service took place in October 2022. Leak repair in pipe in Fulthorpe Chapel has been completed after a few attempts and the steps re-instated.
   - Fire: Inspection of the fire extinguishers completed March 2022.
   - ADT Alarm: routine inspection completed. A recommendation to upgrade the keypad and control unit is being actively pursued with quotations received for this work.
   - Lightening protection system: inspected and tested in July 2022.
   - Tower clock: The clock was stopped for the bell refurbishment project. We hope to have it serviced and re-started next month (May 2023).
   - An inspection of articles belonging to the belonging to the church (terrier) was satisfactorily completed April 2023
   - Other minor maintenance tasks are carried out as required and recorded in the Church Log Book

   Church yard and flower borders: Our thanks to the Council for maintaining the church grounds and rose beds and checking on safety of gravestones as well as removing the dead Cherry tree. Thanks to Pam Stockton for doing the flower beds which look lovely

   Parking: Thanks to Camerons for their help and assistance with operating the car park and ensuring parking spaces are available, particularly at busy times when they permit the use of their parking areas

2. **Church Bell refurbishment:** The end is in sight! The replacement of the West window will mark the completion of a wonderful, rewarding and a mammoth task. We are immensely grateful to Andrew Frost for masterminding this project and to Maureen Anderson for undertaking the considerable amount of administrative tasks associated with this project and to David Craig for managing the finances. A special thank you to the volunteers who helped with the work. Also this project has brought to light the significance of the bell in the lives of many who have associated with Stanton in the past.

3. **Vicar appointment:** Our thanks to all who were involved in the process, reps from all 3 churches and particularly the invaluable help and assistance we received from the Diocese; Sheila Bamber, Janet Burbury (Area Dean), Rick Simpson (Archdeacon) and Bishop Sarah.

Rohan Wanduragala, Angela Craig
Churchwardens

HEALTH AND SAFETY REPORT

Health and Safety Audit of the church was carried out by Angela Craig and Peter Anderson in April 2023.
The following matters are noted from that inspection

- Lighting to the rear path to church should be improved as the brewery lighting has not been repaired and is reduced.
- The carpet in church has been cleaned by Mark Sanders - a big thank you and the joints continue to be monitored. The replacement is on hold for the moment due to other pressing needs for our church funds.
- The Fulthorpe Chapel kitchen vinyl has been repaired
- The temporary steps in the Fulthorpe Chapel have been replaced but need finishing cosmetic touches.
- The five yearly Electrical Installation Condition check is due in October 2023.
- Access to the tower roof requires improvement
- The dead cherry tree has been removed and the approach path up the steps to church has been repaired. The nosings will be repainted shortly.
- We have not yet restarted a sidesperson rota and this is to be done as soon as possible. Please do volunteer if you are able to be at one of the services half an hour before it begins to welcome and guide people and assist with leading people to take Holy Communion.

No new hazards were found.

Angela Craig, Peter Anderson

DEANERY SYNOD REPORT

We met twice during the year.

In **February** we met at Holy Trinity, West View.
Items discussed included:-

An update on Communities of Hope

Deanery Planning, as Fr Graeme had left St Oswald's, the Deanery Plan kicked in with Fr Richard taking on responsibilities. It was Rev Norman's last Deanery Synod as he will retire in June.
The Central Group had completed the Parish Prioritising Process and the Group Profile had been approved by the Archdeacon and a job advert would follow.

Safeguarding
DBS term has been reduced from 5 years to 3. PCC members may require both Basic and Foundation level safeguarding training. There are new Lone Working guidelines.

Living in Love and Faith
Details of the resources available for parishes was distributed

Queen's Jubilee
Hart and Elwick had planted 130 free saplings from the Woodland Trust.

Tall Ships, July 2023
It was hoped to be able to maintain a Christian presence at the event and an organising subcommittee was established to explore this.

In **November** we met at St Oswald's.

The main agenda item was an illustrated talk by Rev Paul Child from Cuthbert House regarding generous giving and the parish share. The feeling was that we don't tend to discuss "Giving" regularly, or look at the theological background. We should give generously because:-

We're created in the image of a generous God
Generous giving deepens our relationship with Christ
We own the vision of our Diocese
We need to keep the Church growing.

There are many ways of generous giving, e.g. cash, contactless, on line, QR, Parish Giving Scheme and legacies. Easyfunding was also mentioned.

Updates were given on Communities of Hope, Safeguarding, the Tall Ships, school visits, decarbonisation, Hart had received its Gold ECO award and Rev John Bell was welcomed.

Andrew Rogers

SAFEGUARDING - CHILD AND VUNERABLE ADULT PROTECTION

This year we have focussed on ensuring our DBS checks are up to date for existing volunteers. An administrative error with the diocese meant that some people's DBS checks had lapsed, however these are now in the process of being followed up.

We have fully embedded last year's changes to 'safer recruiting' with volunteers and staff, thanks to the work of Rev. Clive Hall.

All our policies are up to date and in line with diocesan expectations, with the exception of Digital Safeguarding. Revd. John Bell is using his past experience in this area to ensure we're compliant as soon as possible.

Although our staff and volunteers occasionally come into contact with safeguarding concerns, there have been no incidents involving our groups or workers this year.

Clive, who took the lead on the day-to-day safeguarding procedures, has now handed these over to myself and John.

Peter Hart
Safeguarding Officer

GATHERED WORSHIP IN STRANTON PARISH

There is a regular pattern of worship services across the parish, both weekly and monthly. The services are held in Church and St Matthew's Hall. Each service has its own characteristics. We hope and pray that there is something for those who have been part of a worshipping community for a long time and those attending for the first time. The pattern is summarised as follows –

Stranton Church

Sundays

9:00	Holy Communion	A quiet said service using traditional liturgy
11:00	Morning Worship Holy Communion Lighthouse Service (provision for all ages)	Each Sunday has a different characteristic. Generally the services are relaxed and welcoming including a mix of contemporary music and hymns. 1st and 3rd Sundays include communion 4th Sunday, Lighthouse is a good service to try if you are new to church, it includes welcomes for families wanting baptism.

St Matthew's Community Centre

4:00 second Sunday only	Messy Church	A service for families based around craft, story and sharing tea together

Wednesdays

10:00	Holy Communion	A said midweek communion in a more accessible venue.

WORSHIP TEAM

After Julie's retirement I took over the rota for sung worship.
Huge thanks to Viv Neville who led worship through the Christmas period. Huge thanks to the worship team Robyn Farrow, Ann Courtney, Sophie Bell, Pam Harkness and Mary Tones.

The rota is sent to a Whats app group each month so everyone knows who is singing. I then send the songs weekly. I have been keeping a record of what we have been singing for copyright reasons.

It's been a privilege to lead and serve in this way.

Since Jordan and his family have come back to church he has been covering worship so I could have a couple of Sundays off. Huge thanks to Jordan for stepping in and being willing to continue to lead worship.

A little reminder why we worship,
Worship reminds us that He is God and we are not!
1 Peter 2:9
'That you may declare the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light.'

Angela Hall

COMMUNITY WORKER

Chaplain of Ward Jackson School

I have taken lessons and been interviewed a few times this year. I was asked by a pupil if I would attend the Ward Jacksons got Talent event, which I did and I got the pupil who asked me to be my assistant for a magic trick.
We have hosted the school in church a few times but we did have a special 'I sing Pop' event. A Christian organisation taught the children songs and dances for three days and then put a concert on in church it was very well attend by parents.
I also took a baptism service for one of the teachers which was a privilege to do.
I have been making myself available for parents in the playground each week.
I was invited for the first time to go and speak at Rossmere Primary school and I helped with their Harvest Festival assembly.

Overseer for Youth, Children and Family work

There is a process to go through when you want to become a volunteer in church. There is always a DBS check made and there is compulsory training on safeguarding. We also have a Safer Recruitment policy; this make the process a bit longer but it also means we are making sure all our children and Youth are kept safe.
I have been attending the Coffee and Cake drop in at St Aidan's church for a while now. It is good to see how the development of trust with the people has grown and good conversations and prayer are a natural part of the morning.

YF

I will be the fourth leader to leave YF within the last year. So I would like to say they are still looking for leaders to come along and help them. Please talk to Peter Hart or Rachel West. YF has 6 youths coming along aged from 11- 17.
YF went to The Pulse event recently and saw John Archer a Christian Magician. Along with the good worship and Prayer stations, we all enjoyed the evening.

Home group

We meet every other week and it has been good to welcome back someone who had left for a little while. We have a social time together and a spiritual thought for the day.

Alpha Home group

After the Alpha course finished last year we carried on meeting as a home group. We sing and have some basic teaching about Christian life and also just have fellowship together. We have met for a few meals and also all had a trip to Holy Island.

Priest Role

A lot of changes within this last year. Rachel and Anita finished their training and Norman and Julie retired. Then the arrival of Rev John. This has meant it has been a busy time for everyone across all the churches.
This year I have taken 4 weddings, 14 Baptisms and 12 funerals. The Baptism of the Farrow family in the sea was a highlight.
Angela and I also led some of the Wedding Preparation Day, we enjoyed working together as a team and felt there will be more of this in the near future. Thanks for all who helped in making the day a success.

Personal News

Two years ago I was signed off as priest, but I wanted to get a job which was just one church and as a friend of ours said "you need a church that doesn't just need a priest but needs a Clive and Angela" I do believe I have found that church. So I will be moving shortly and my Licensing service is on 22nd May at St Matthews in Withernsea.
We have been in Hartlepool nearly 20 Years. I have seen many changes in all that time, and had many experiences which have all helped to make me the person I am today.
We did a while ago teach about Ubuntu a South African saying that means 'I am who I am because of you'. You supported and helped and encouraged me and my family through all that time. We are very grateful for your friendship and for being our Christian family. May God continue to bless you, and all that you do.

Reverend Clive Hall

STRANTON TODDLER GROUP

I took over the running of Toddlers in June 2022. It continues to be popular and thrive attracting between 27-35 children plus their accompanying adults each session. The large variety of activities on offer continue pretty much as they did before.

Both halls are used with a large amount of play equipment and more messy activities in the smaller room. At about 10am everyone comes together for a snack and squash/tea/coffee. Following tidy up time the sessions finish with singing nursery songs. It is busy but there is a lovely atmosphere and it is great to see the youngsters smiling, laughing and having fun.

As always, it is heavily dependent upon the help of volunteers to be able to run it. My sincere thanks to all those who help and put in such hard work to ensure it runs smoothly. It is very much appreciated.

Currently we could do with at least two more volunteers. One to help on a rota basis with the snack in the kitchen and another to help set up first thing in the morning. Setting up in the morning would particularly be when a volunteer is away so can't help. If you are interested please let me know.

I have enjoyed getting to know all the mums, dads, grandparents and child minders that come and look forward to seeing how it develops.

Thank you for your time and prayerful support.

Hayley Liversidge
Communities of Hope

MESSY CHURCH

Messy Church has taken place on the second Sunday of the month at 4p.m. in St Matthew's Hall 9 times in the last year plus Messy Easter on Good Friday morning. We also had a Christingle service in church on the second Sunday of December at 4p.m. for Messy Church and schools. We have a Stranton Messy Church Face Book page. We usually have 22-32 children age 1-13 and 18-20 adults (including helpers) in attendance. They are a mixture of families who attend Stranton church, regular Messy Church families and families preparing for Baptisms of children.

We were sad to say Goodbye to Julie and Norman last May. I now plan and lead Messy Church with the help of Hayley from Communities of Hope. Last Autumn we enjoyed learning about Creation, Adam and Eve and Noah's Ark, this year we've told the stories of Jesus healing ten lepers and Zacchaeus, with the help of Paul Anderson who sets up the projector for the Beginners' Bible illustrations and song. We praise God with the help of Jordan Thornhill on guitar or Kevin Tones and have an interactive prayer. Then there are 5-6 crafts and activities set up related to the Bible story and some of our older young people have been helping the younger children decorate heart shaped biscuits, make painted hand print pictures, make Thank you and Easter cards, paint pebbles etc. Finally we all share a very tasty tea provided by Maureen and Peter Anderson and have a chat over sandwiches, sausage rolls and cake.

Future hopes: to run a Christian enquirers group to include adults from Messy Church and to have Baptisms at Messy Church.

BIG THANKS to the small but dedicated Messy Church Team who work so hard to make it all happen. More helpers are always welcome, just have a word with me or Hayley.

Mary Tones

SUNDAY CLUB

At Christmas the Sunday Club took part in a Nativity, which was a great success, with the children reading and acting the Christmas story. Following this, all of the children received a selection box.

At Easter, there was an Easter egg hunt and all the children received an Easter egg.

There is a regular core of children attending, but numbers vary from week to week, ranging from 3 – 16 children. The age range is 5 – 14.

Thank you to all of our leaders and helpers including Mary, Gill, Helen and Pam for volunteering this year. New helpers, who are much needed, will soon be joining us.

Kate Lawson Sunday Club Leader

YF (Youth Fellowship)

Lots of changes to leaders this year. Rachel Price was helping and of course moved on. Beth and Shannon Strain both junior leaders also left us. Then at Christmas Michaela left also. We are very grateful for all their hard work and support.
This left Peter Hart and myself. We were delighted when Rachel West joined us and Mark Sanders is in the process of becoming a leader. We do still need another female leader to keep a good balance. Do please consider being a YF Leader and talk to either Peter or Rachel.

We have enjoyed trips to The Pulse which is a Durham Diocese Youth Meetings at Durham Cathedral. Our latest trip was to see John Archer a magician.

We have been using the Rock Solid material which combines talking points with games around the themes such as - Cry Freedom. Based on freedom of speech- Is anyone Hungry, based on food. Who do you think I am? Which was about who Jesus is to you.
We had a good film night especially when Paul Anderson was able to project it onto the big screen in church. We are due another one?

There are times we are struggling to have two leaders at YF and a special thanks need to be said to Mary Tones, Paul and Peter Anderson for being our back up leaders even at short notice.

I did attend a clergy training day and it was mentioned there that there is only a handful of churches which have youth groups in the Durham Diocese. Stranton Church is one of them. Do keep praying for this to continue.

Revd Clive Hall YF Leadership Team

Stranton Brownies & Guides

2022, a year that was still in the shadow of Covid, girls missing meetings as they were testing positive but slowly during the year a move towards a more normal meeting experience.

The girls have two activities they love doing, eating and crafts. Many of the programme activities will incorporate these!
We had a number of Celebrations during the year, some being regular activities – World Thinking Day, where we think of the Girlguiding members around the world and special ones when a girl achieves the highest award in their section. In the Spring term, Elly gained her GOLD AWARD, where we celebrated with cake. Well done Elly.

The crafts, programme and badges have had the themes running through them of recycling materials, helping the bees, reducing waste, the results have been amazing.

During the year we take opportunities to join in Hartlepool Guiding events, so went to Thinking Day on the Air, where the girls have the opportunity to talk to other guides and scouts around the world and the Campfire evening of singing and eating!

We had our first Funday, as the Community Centre outside in the car park. We combined campcraft skills, outdoor cooking, completing the Platinum Jubilee Challenge and the tea party for the Celebration. A busy but great day, the weather was also kind, so the five hours was spent outside.

During the summer months we try to do outdoor activities. This year we did rock pools at the headland -learning about the plants and animals that live and survive in them when the tide goes out. Incredible insects challenge badge, going up to the family wood, more outdoor cooking and sandcastles at Seaton followed by chips.

In the Autumn term, two new Leaders joined, Hannah (parent of a Brownie) and Iona as a Young Leader, moving into Leadership from Guides. They have both settled in and are a big asset to the Brownies. We also held an open evening for Brownies, from which we gained five Brownies and two Guides. The Remembrance Day activities allowed the girls to share what they knew and discuss the stories we gave them along with the crafts. Christmas activities and Crafts were also popular and well done by the girls.

If there is anyone that would be interested in becoming a helper and/or Leader please contact me.

Cheryl Mills
(Leader with Brownies & Guides)

Rainbows	The Great News – Rainbows is back at St Matthew's Community Centre. Open Night Monday 15th May 5.30 – 6.30pm Rainbows 4 – 7yrs, a parent must attend

Brownies	Open Night Monday 15th May 6.00 – 7.15pm at St Matthew's Community Centre Brownies 7 – 10yrs, a parent must attend.

4th Hartlepool

4th Hartlepool Boys Brigade

Founded 1930

HQ - St. Matthews Community Centre

Find us on Facebook

4th Hartlepool

This year we have put displays in church for harvest and Easter and taken part in the Harvest Festival, Parade Sunday and held our own Christmas Carol Service in Church (Which was well attended on a Friday Night)

The Anchor and Junior Boys took part in Easter Eggheads and some Company Lads assisted as helpers

All sections will be working towards a Coronation Badge to be given out at our Open Night

Anchor Boys we are averaging 12 Boys and they enjoy crafts and games.

The junior numbers are disappointing, we average under 10 Boys and are trying to recruit in this age group

Company - we have average 15 plus which is very encouraging and we have 14 going to our Camp at Fanwood Scout Centre

Leaders - we have not lost any leaders this session which allows for all to build up experiences although if anyone would like to do simple cooking with the Anchors and Juniors you would be most welcome

Funding we are holding our Summer Fayre on June 17th and are hopeful of receiving grants towards the cost of Camp activities

We look forward to growing in 2023 and beyond and where possible to mix into church based activities

George Bainbridge, Leader in Charge, 4th Hartlepool Boys Brigade

PASTORAL GROUP

We are currently a team of 5 – Ian Walker, Rohan Wanduragala, Diana Wanduragala (associate member) and myself, with Cheryl Mills as a recent and very welcome addition to our numbers. We maintain contact and provide support by means of telephone calls, visits, providing home communion, going for walks and meeting up for coffee. We have continued the tradition of delivering Christmas and Easter cards and small gifts of chocolate to those who can no longer manage to get to church, as well as delivering flowers on Mothering Sunday. Some also receive the weekly notice sheet, Signpost and bible notes, delivered by a wider church team.

This support, in its many forms, is an important way of maintaining relationships and connections within our church. We feel it is also important to note that a lot of informal pastoral care is provided by both members of the congregation and the leadership team to give both ongoing and ad hoc help to those who need it.

Revd Michelle led the team until she left Stranton in December and continued the opening up of the church building on Saturday mornings during the summer months as a means of pastoral outreach. This practice has been suspended over the winter.

We continue to have regular meetings to review and plan our commitments and, with Revd John's support, we are currently exploring, as a joint venture with members of St Luke's congregation, the setting up of a bereavement support group for those who have been recently bereaved.

There are cards at the back of church which can be used (for themselves or others) by anyone wanting to request to be contacted by a member of the pastoral team.

Pam Stockton

MOTHERS` UNION REPORT

This past year has been a year of waiting to see what the weather is like before ringing members up to tell them we are going ahead or not to come out. There is another snag as we meet on a second Monday and this year we have extra Bank Holidays due to various other happenings.

We still have 14+ members who regularly attend our meetings and those who support us at home with prayers. We do miss having Julie Shave to keep us in key with her guitar but we do make a go of carols and hymns.

Please do pop into St Matthew's Hall for a chat and you will be very welcome.

God Bless
Ann Courtenay
Branch Leader

BELLRINGING REPORT

The last report stated how Andy Kaye was suffering from bad health and Joseph Wilson had taken over as Stranton Tower Captain. Sadly, Andy passed away peacefully on 19th September 2022. His illness had become progressively worse until he had to be admitted to Alice House Hospice where he spent his last few weeks. Andy had been a bell ringer for many years and had taken part in peals lasting more than 12 hours as well as visiting and being a member of a host of towers. His funeral was at Stranton Crematorium and a number of ringers attended. Stranton's bells were out of

commission so St Aidan's tower was opened up for his family and others to ring in his memory after his cremation.

Progress on the refurbishment of Stranton's bells progressed slowly early in the year. As reported in 2022, the Church Buildings Council was against the old bell No 6 dated 1599 (now found to have been cast c1520) and listed for conservation from being retuned. They finally submitted their arguments to the diocesan chancellor and the PCC appealed against their conclusions with a well-argued statement that as the bell had been tuned in 1907, it would be right to tune it again to keep it in the circle of bells. The Chancellor decided in favour of Stranton's PCC and the bells were removed to Taylor's of Loughborough in July. Ahead of that Mason & Forster (Stonemasons) of Sunderland had to remove the belfry west window so that the bells could be taken out of the tower. A second bat survey had been carried out prior to the work commencing and the survey concluded that the belfry was bat free and was not conducive to them roosting in it.

In September the bell frame was de-rusted, painted with antirust paint, primer and an enamel top coat applied. During this work it was discovered that some remedial work needed doing to one of the spars and a new spar was fitted. Also in September the bell ringers visited Taylor's and were told that the No 4 bell could not be tuned properly as the metal in the shoulder was too thin and any necessary tuning at that point could crack the bell. A D&N Association member, Jim Crowther, came forward and offered to pay for a replacement on the proviso that it be dedicated to Andy Kaye and his family. This left a question over what to do with the old bell and after discussion within the PCC, it was decided to retain the old bell for striking as a "Service Bell". Taylor's quickly produced a design for how the bell should hang in the belfry, a case for an amendment to the original approved faculty was submitted to the Diocesan Advisory Committee and, within 4 days, the Chancellor approved the amendment.

Work to return the bells started in November and they were hung in time to be rung for Christmas. Reinstatement of the belfry window has been delayed by bad weather but it is anticipated that the work will complete in mid-April 2023.

Hartlepool's bellringers have continued ringing and developing their art. Elspeth Craig has run Tuesday afternoon sessions for whoever is available to improve their ringing and to progress. These sessions have been most useful and well attended. The standard of ringing in Hartlepool has not been as high as it is in many years. Six of the ringers entered the D&N Striking Competition in 2022 and came first out of 8 teams.

The bell ringers want to thank Stranton Church, Revd Bell and the church officers for agreeing to hold a Service of Rededication for the bells on 25th February 2023. With the Bishop of Durham taking part and The Lord Lieutenant of Durham being present, the day went very well with the church being full and everybody saying how wonderful it was. Bell ringing in Hartlepool goes from strength to strength. Bells at all three churches will be rung on the occasion of King Charles III coronation on 6th May 2023 as they were for the death and funeral of Queen Elizabeth II.

Andrew Frost and Joseph Wilson Tower Captain

ST MATTHEW'S COMMUNITY CENTRE ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT

Despite the effects of lock down and some reduction of income last year, St Matthew's started the year in a fairly positive financial situation. However, the first couple of months revealed this was going to be a tough year, as, like others, we would be facing large increases in our energy costs in particular, as well as potential loss of users as a knock on effect. To a large extent this governed our strategy and tactics for 2022. The rental rates for hall users had not changed for many years and after research of alternative venue rates and much discussion the committee agreed to increase these rates by 15% from September. Our centre still offers some of the most competitive rates in Hartlepool. The committee understood this increase in itself would not be sufficient to sustain our position and that we needed the increase the value of our offer to customers by upgrading some facilities, as well as attention to the maintenance of this old building. We have also increased

awareness through ads in Signpost and other voluntary organisations as well as increased use of social media. We also intend to improve Wi-Fi reception and speed through the addition of boosters to new areas of the building.

One area where there is an opportunity for growth is rental for children's parties and other special occasions and events. This year we have undertaken a programme of refurbishment and improvement to the small and large hall kitchens, to enable both halls to be independently rented with full cooking and storage facilities. This work was financed by existing funds and completed in September. This has not only improved facilities for existing users, but we have also recently noted and increase in party bookings. However, in September we also received news that a long standing hall user, Diddikicks, would be leaving us and the contract with Communities of Hope would not be renewed. These decisions have a significant impact on our income stream. Throughout the autumn we have managed to fill some of these gaps and will continue to search for and attract new users.

A constant source of attention at St Matthew's is the maintenance the building requires. In order to understand the problems and allow us to plan and prioritise the work required, in September we commissioned a surveyor's report on the entire site. In December we received the report, and this has allowed us to formulate a plan of action for undertaking the works required. This will be a 2 phase project, the first part of which will focus on the small hall. The upgrades are relatively minor and can be self-funded and we hope this work will take place during the summer of 2023. The work on the rest of the building is much more substantial and will require grant applications for funding and are projected to take place during the second half of 2024. Members of the committee are busy working towards both stages of the project.

Throughout the year we have strengthened our bonds with Stranton Church and the Resident's Association through working together on a number of projects and this cooperation will continue throughout the coming year. For example, during the year we have held monthly Coffee and Cake afternoons which have proved extremely popular and in the autumn and wintertime have held weekly Warm Space soup lunches. We have also hosted the usual Christmas and summer fairs as well as a couple of splendid Diamond Jubilee Parties where over 200 people enjoyed the celebrations.

All in all, a mixed year for St Matthew's with many challenges to come. Nevertheless we believe we are in a strong position to move forward, well informed and ready to meet these challenges.

Carol Laud

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish

of

All Saints, Stranton

Charity Registration Number 1134753

Accounts for the year to 31 December 2022

Independent Examiner's Certificate for Stranton PCC Accounts: Charity Number: 1134753

I report to the trustees of: All Saints Stranton Parochial Church Council on accounts for the year ended 31 December 2022

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act), and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

Independent examiner's statement:

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the following requirements have not been met:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act;
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with
- the accounting requirements of the Charities Act;
- to account for statutory fees correctly.

2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed: Clive Rathbone Date: 6 May 2023

21 Wolviston Road Hartlepool TS25 5AP: Methodist Circuit Treasurer (Retired)

All Saints Stranton Parochial Church Council

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 December 2022

	Note:	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	TOTAL 2022	FUNDS 2021
Incoming resources						
Incoming resources from donors	2a	73,666	6,074	-	79,740	111,960
Other voluntary incoming resources	2b	13,046	127,809	-	140,855	123,845
Income from charitable and ancillary trading	2c	17,303	-	-	17,303	12,317
Other ordinary incoming resources	2d	-	-	-	-	422.00
Income from investments	2e, 10	266	-	8,975	9,242	3,631
Total incoming resources		104,281	133,883	8,975	247,140	252,174
Resources Expended						
Grants to Home and overseas mission and other charities	3a	7,729	-	-	7,729	8,884
Activities Directly relating to the work of the Church	3b	68,975	133,883	-	202,858	211,677
Fund Raising and Publicity	3c	1,765.32	-	-	1,765.32	-
Church Management and Administration	3d	29,593	-	-	29,593	26,431
Total resources Expended		108,062	133,883	-	241,945	246,992
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources: Community Centre	**2,768**					
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources: Church see note 10	-6,549	-3,781	-	**8,975**	**5,195**	**5,182**
Other Net Gains/losses: including prior period adjsutment see note	10	-	-	-16,146	-16,146	**17,387**
Net movement in funds		-3,781	-	-7,171	-10,952	**22,569**
Balances Brought Forward at 1 January 2022 as previously stated		119,839	95,236	9,360	224,435	222,620
Balances 1 January 2022 revision per prior period adjustment note	10			174,990	174,990	159,235
Reclassification of p/y Windrim drawdown	10			-5,000	-5,000	-5,000
Balances restated and Carried Forward at 31 December 2022		116,058	95,236	172,179	383,473	399,425

All Saints Stranton Parochial Church Council

Statement of Financial Position at 31 December 2022	Note:	**2022**	**2021**
Fixed Assets			
Tangible fixed Assets	5a	184,177	193,143
Investment Assets	5b, 10	162,819	174,990
		346,996	368,133
Current Assets			
Debtors and prepaid expenses	7	72,148	26,747
Short Term Deposits		414	410
Cash at Bank and in Hand		43,769	105,777
		116,332	132,934
Liabilities: Amounts falling due within one year	8	-79,855	-50,363
Deferred grant and donation revenue (bells project)	8	-	-51,280
Net Current (Liabilities)/ Assets		36,477	31,291
Net Assets		383,473	399,425
Funds:	6, 9, 10		
Unrestricted reserves (see below)	9	116,059	119,839
Restricted reserves (Buildings and Organ fund)	9	95,235	95,235
Endowment reserves	10	172,179	184,350
Total Reserves		383,473	399,425

Approved by resolution of the Parochial Church Council, dated 19th April 2023

Rev'd. John G Bell (Chairman)

Mr David Craig (Hon. Treasurer)

All Saints Stranton Parochial Church Council Year to 31 December 2022

Note 1 - Accounting policies

1a) Basis of Preparation

These Accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention, as modified by the revaluation of certain assets. They have been prepared to meet the requirements of the Church Accounting Regulations 2011 together with applicable Accounting Standards, the Charities Acts 2011 and 2016 and Statements of Recommended Practice. They have been prepared on an accruals basis to match income and related expenditure relating to the year under review. The statements include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible. Financial statements for various Church related activities or groups for which the PCC is not responsible are not included. Subsidiary Financial statements for the activities of the st Matthews Community Centre which are consolidated in these Accounts are available separately. The Accounts include the Endowment Trust Funds held and administered for the benefit of the PCC by the Diocese of Durham, as custodian Trustees.

1b) Fixed Assets

Fixed Assets are stated at cost: freehold land and buildings are not depreciated as in the view of the PCC the effect of depreciation of these assets would not be material to an appreciation of the PCC's financial position. Office and computer equipment furniture and fixtures are depreciated using a straight line method over a period (generally 4-5 years) estimated to reflect the useful economic life of the Assets.

1c) Investments

Investments are revalued annually and carried at the lower of realisable and current market value, the difference between cost and carrying value is recorded in a revaluation reserve where the value is greater than original cost: a provision is made for each investment asset for which the market value is less than its original cost. Reserves and provisions are not netted off. Endowment investments are revalued to lower of market or realisable value annually by the custodian trustees and any difference adjusted against endowment reserve.

1d) Stocks

Inventory (where material) is stated at the lower of cost and net realisable value and written off as expenditure when issued.

1e) Debtors

Amounts receivable are stated at the value prudently expected to be realised. Full or partial provision is made for bad or doubtful debts as soon as they become apparent.

1f) Liabilities, Provisions, deferred income and capital grants

Full estimates are made of income and capital grants received in advance and of outstanding liabilities incurred in the course of the PCC's Activities, and provision made in compliance with current relevant Financial Reporting Standards and recommended charity practice.

1g) Pensions

Paid Staff employed by the PCC (i.e. who are not stipendiary clergy licensed by the Diocese of Durham) who are eligible for Workplace pension are offered membership of the Defined Contribution Scheme operated for the PCC by Peoples Pension (formerly B&CE), this scheme complies with the national legal membership requirements and contribution rates for workplace pensions.

1h) Employment.

In 2023 The PCC employed two full time (one church and one project) and five part time (two church and three project) staff. The church policy is to review pay annually by benchmarking and to ensure that as a minimum the rate of National Living Wage is maintained.

All Saints Stranton Parochial Church Council

Statement of Cash Flows for the year ended 31 December 2022

	2022 Total	2022 Unrestricted	2022 Restricted	2023 Endowment see note 10	*2021 Total*
Operating activities					
Operating surplus / (deficit)	5,195	-3,781	-	8,975	*5,182*
add items not involving movement of funds: Depreciation	8,967	8,967	-	-	*9,068*
Increase/(Decrease) in Creditors	29,492	6,978	22,514	-	*15,407*
(Increase)/Decrease in Debtors	-45,401	-3,176	-42,225	-	*7,086*
Cash utilised in (2021 - generated from) operations	-1,748	8,988	-19,711	8,975	***36,743***
Investing activities					
Cash generated from sale of assets	-	-	-	-	-
Cash invested in assets	-	-	-	-	-
Other investments made	-	-	-	-	-
Grants & donations (released from) / transferred to deferred income	-51,280	-	-51,280	-	*51,280*
Cash (utilised) in investing activities - (Audiovisual System 2021)	-	-	-	-	*-16,528*
total cash movements from Operating and Investing activities	**-53,028**	**8,988**	**-70,991**	**8,975**	***71,495***
Represented by:					
Church Current account decrease (2021 - Increase) in balances	-65,820	5,046	-70,991	-	*63,971*
Community Centre Current Account increase in balance	3,851	3,851	-	-	*4,079*
Deposit *account increase* in balance	4	4	-	-	*4*
Decrease (2021- increase) in cash balances (Community Centre)	-38	-38	-	-	*73*
Increase in endowment cash balances (Custodian balances)	8,975	-	-	8,975	*3,368*
Net Movement in liquid balances	**-53,028**	**8,863**	**-70,991**	**8,975**	***71,495***

All Saints Stranton Parochial Church Council

Notes to the Financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2022

Heading **2 Incoming resources**	**Unrestricted Funds**	**Restricted Funds**	**Endowment Funds**	**TOTAL 2022**	**FUNDS 2021**
2a Incoming resources from donors					
Planned Giving					
Gift Aided	41,799	-	-	41,799	47,730
Income Tax recoverable on Gift Aid inc donations	10,450	-	-	10,450	11,932
other income tax recoverable	-	-	-	-	-
other Voluntary giving	17,400	-	-	17,400	8,323
Other collections	4,017	-	-	4,017	3,440
Gift Day	-	-	-	-	-
Bell restoration appeal - donations (deferred income see note 3b)	-	-	-	-	35,880
Communities of Hope - Other income	-	6,074	-	6,074	4,655
	73,666	6,074	-	79,740	111,960
2b Other voluntary incoming resources					
Grants - not including Capital Grants	6,058		-	6,058	10,229
Bell restoration appeal - 2022 Deferred Grants and donations (see note 3b)	-	-	-	-	15,400
Bell restoration appeal - 2023 Grants	-	35,060		35,060	
Communities of Hope - External Grants	-	5,205	-	5,205	7,000
Communities of Hope - SDF funding via Diocese	-	67,879	-	67,879	68,755
Appeals etc	496		-	496	412
Legacies and Donations,	2,823	19,665	-	22,488	18,379
Income tax recoverable on Gift Aided Donations	3,669	-	-	3,669	3,669
Fundraising			-	-	
	13,046	127,809	-	140,855	123,845
2c Income from Charitable and ancillary Trading					
Magazines and book sales	-	-	-	-	10
Lettings (Halls etc) contribution	10,939	-	-	10,939	7,404
Fees	6,279	-	-	6,279	4,833
Sundry income:	85	-	-	85	70
	17,303	-	-	17,303	12,317
2d Other ordinary incoming resources					
Contribution to secretarial costs	-	-	-	-	-
Insurance claims	-	-	-	-	422
	-	-	-	-	422
2e Income from investments					
Dividends, interest and bonuses including adjustment (note 10)	266	-	8,975	9,242	3,631
Total Incoming Resources:	104,281	133,883	8,975	247,140	252,174

All Saints Stranton Parochial Church Council

Notes to the Financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2022

3. Resources Expended

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	**TOTAL 2022**	**FUNDS 2021**
3a Grants made					
Missionary and Charitable Giving					
Overseas mission	3,000	-	-	3,000	4,500
Relief & development agencies	-	-	-	-	342
Home misssions and other Church Societies	4,729	-	-	4,729	4,042
	7,729	-	-	7,729	8,884
3b Activities directly related to the work of the Church					
Ministry:					
Parish Share	35,250	-	-	35,250	34,033
Communities of Hope Hartlepool Staff costs	-	62,464	-	62,464	54,570
Communities of Hope other operating costs and deferred income	-	16,694		16,694	18,047
Staff expenses, including MEV allowances	2,125	-	-	2,125	5,690
Property costs - staff accommodation	402	-	-	402	343
Church running expenses, excl hall recharge	13,189	-	-	13,189	11,480
Church repairs and maintenance	2,683	-	-	2,683	9,705
Recruitment and training costs	34	-	-	34	156
Ministry costs excluding Pay cost -Burbank, Youth and families Wo	3,786	-	-	3,786	3,821
Magazine - costs included in Stationery	-	-	-	-	-
Professional fees,surveys etc - (2021 included in capital expenditur	1,500	-	-	1,500	-
Parish lay worker remuneration	10,006	12,500	-	22,506	22,551
Cost of parish events	-		-	-	-
Deferred Income to 2022 Bells restoration (see note 2b)	-	-	-	-	51,280
Current and accrued Expenditure - Bells restoration	-	42,225	-	42,225	-
	68,975	133,883	-	202,858	211,677
3c Fundraising and publicity					
costs associated with generating funds	1,765	-	-	1,765	-
3c Fundraising and publicity	1,765	-	-	1,765	-
3d Church management and administration					
Administrator remuneration incl pension contribution, and expense:	16,193	-	-	16,193	13,445
Stationery and printing	1,551	-	-	1,551	1,169
Hall overhead	2,465	-	-	2,465	2,313
Depreciation equipment & computers	8,967	-	-	8,967	9,068
Bank Charges	418	-	-	418	435
Legal and professional fees / costs .	-	-	-	-	-
	29,593	-	-	29,593	26,431
Total Resources Expended:	108,062	133,883	-	241,945	246,992

All Saints Stranton Parochial Church Council

Notes to the Financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2022

4. Staff costs

Clergy stipends are paid by the Diocese: all other remuneration shown under note 3b and 3d was paid to the Parish lay worker, parish administrator and from October 2020 to the staff working on behalf of the Central Hartlepool Group of Parishes in the Communities of Hope Hartlepool - a project fund by the Diocese of Durham, and include social security costs and pension contributions made under a defined benefit scheme operated by Peoples Pens

5. Fixed Assets

5a Tangible fixed Assets		Freehold Land And Buildings	Equipment, fixtures and computers	TOTAL
Gross book value	At 1 January 2022	178,551	48,866	227,417
	Revaluations	-	-	-
	Disposals	-	-	-
	Additions: audiovisual	-	-	-
	Capital Grants applied	-	-	-
	At 31 December 2022	178,551	48,866	227,417
Depreciation	At 1 January 2022		34,273	34,273
	Disposals		-	-
	Charge for the year/impairment		8,967	8,967
	At 31 December 2022		43,240	43,240
Net Book Value	**At 31 December 2022**	**178,551**	**5,626**	**184,177**
	At 31 December 2021	**178,551**	**14,593**	**193,143**

Freehold land and buildings comprise St Matthew's Community Hall, and staff house accommodation at 10 Clarkson Court:

Other Tangible Fixed assets are amortised over periods estimated to reflect their economic lives from the date of acquisition, generally 4 to 5 years. Assets scrapped/sold are disposals

The Church building is not included in the statement of financial position as it has no historic cost record. Church buildings are insured for reinstatement costs

The Audio Equipment installed in church in 2020 has been subject to accelerated depreciation over 2 years in view of the potential for obsolescence and likely realisable value

5b Investments:

The PCC does not directly hold any investments but receives income from certain designated trust funds held by Durham Diocese as custodian
As the PCC is the ultimate beneficiary of these funds they have been included in these accounts for the first time in 2022: a prior year adjustment has be made (see **note 10)** for an analysis of these funds and their realised and unrealised changes in valuation.

6 Analysis of net assets by fund	**Unrestricted Funds**	**Restricted Funds**	**Endowment Funds**	**Total 2022**	**Total 2021**
Fixed Assets	98,493	85,683	-	184,177	193,143
Endowment investment funds	-	-	162,819	162,819	174,990
Current Assets	56,728	50,244	9,360	116,332	132,934
Deferred Grants and donations revenue see notes 2b and 3b				-	-51,280
Current Liabilities	-39,163	-40,692	-	-79,855	-50,363
	116,059	95,235	172,179	383,473	399,425

7 Debtors:

	2022	**2021**
Tax Recoverable	20,876	17,750
other debtors/receivables	51,272	8,997
	72,148	26,747

8. Liabilities - amounts falling due within one year:

	2022	**2021**
Accruals and deferred income	41,250	40,134
Creditors for goods and services	27,091	155
Other Provision: mission support	8,000	8,000
Deferred grant and donations - restricted income: (bells project)	-	51,280
Other creditors: Tax and NIC	3,514	2,074
	79,855	101,643

9 :Funds

		Unrestricted	**Restricted**	**Endowment**	**Total 2022**	**2021**
Unrestricted and Restricted Capital (Buildings) reserves		42,292	85,683		127,975	127,975
Prior period Adjustment = restatement of Custodian funds	Note 10			162,819	162,819	174,990
Unrestricted - St Matthew's Hall Management Committee		63,115			63,115	60,347
Unrestricted - General Fund:		10,652			10,652	17,201
Restricted: Organ Fund £7,552 and Restoration Bequest £2,000			9,552		9,552	9,552
Locally managed endowment funds				9,360	9,360	9,360
		116,059	95,235	172,179	383,473	399,425

Locally managed endowment funds consist of a number of specific legacies, the income from which may be used for the general purposes of the PCC:
Other Endowment funds are "custodian" funds invested by the Diocese of Durham on behalf of the parish as shown in note 10

Note 10 Investment assets **(and Prior period adjustment in the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2022)**

The prior period adjustment represents the consolidation in the PCC Accounts of endowment funds held in trust on the PCC's behalf: by the Diocese of Durham. These funds are ultimately under the control of the PCC for church purposes, subject to endowment and other restrictions in each Trust deed. This adjustment brings the PCC accounts in line with current best practice on the disclosure of Funds.

The effects of this Prior period adjustment on previously stated reserves and income is shown in the statement of Financial Activity (page 2) Previously the income of these Trust funds has only been reflected in the PCC accounts to the extent it has been drawn down in cash. This adjustment adds income and investment gains (less losses) of these Trust funds in to the PCC Accounts as shown below, the opening balances of reserves have been restated, and the income for both 2022 and 2021 financial years has been adjusted accordingly.

The funds are invested in low risk investment funds and interest bearing deposits in accordance with Diocesan investment policies

		2021 financial year			2022 financial year			
	Valuation 1/1/21	**income**	**investment gain/loss**	**Valuation 31/12/21**	**income**	**investment gain/loss**	**Valuation 31/12/22**	**Notes**
Tithe Act	5,684		817	6,502		-762	5,739	interest remitted annually
Brunswick St	7,291		0	7,291		0	7,291	
Interest	442	4		446	102		548	
Windrim	114,031		16,396	130,428		-15,285	115,142	see note 10.1
Interest	30,259	3,329		28,588	8,832		32,420	£5,000 drawn in 2021
Church	1,206		173	1,380		-99	1,281	
Interest	321	35		356	41		397	
Investment reserve	**159,235**			**174,990**			**162,819**	
Interest realised		**3,368**			**8,975**			
Investment Gain/(Loss)			**17,387**			**-16,146**		

10.1 The Windrim Trust income only is to be used for the maintenance and improvement of the Fabric of the Church

Note 11 Related party transactions

The charity did not enter into any financial transactions, remuneration arrangements or contracts involving trustees or related parties in the financial year to 31 December 2022 or in the financial year to 31 December 2021

All Saints Stranton Parochial Church Council
Restricted funds 2022

	Communities of Hope	Lay Worker	Bells appeal	Total
Grants & Donations				
Sir John Priestman Charity 2022 deferred			8000.00	8000.00
C Cookson Trust 2022 deferred			4000.00	4000.00
All Churches Trust 2022 deferred			3400.00	3400.00
Donations (individual) 2022 deferred			35880.00	35880.00
subtotal - income deferred from 2021 financial year			51280.00	51280.00
Diocese of Durham			4000.00	4000.00
Listed places of Worship VAT Grant			14060.17	14060.17
Northumbria Historic Churches Trust			5000.00	5000.00
Durham and Northumbria Bellringers			10000.00	10000.00
CCBR			2000.00	2000.00
SDF funds via Diocese of Durham	67879.03			67879.03
Other sources of Income	5906.13			5906.13
Anonymous Grant	3500.00			3500.00
Grants <£1000	1705.00			1705.00
Donations 2022 deferred	168.00	10000.00		10168.00
Donations 2023			7165.00	7165.00
Associated Gift Aid		2500.00		2500.00
Total Project income (Bells) to date	79158.16	12500.00	93505.17	185163.33
less: recognised in prior year(s) itemised above			-51280.00	-51280.00
total restricted income 2022	79158.16	12500.00	42225.17	133883.33
Project expenditure				
Capital Grant St Matthews CC				
Internal Rent St Matthews CC	5762.40			5762.40
other Operating costs and future commitments	10931.38			10931.38
Suppliers and contractors - Repairs and refurbishments			69263.29	69263.29
less costs accrued in previous period			-51280.00	-51280.00
Salaries costs	62464.38	12500.00		74964.38
Accrued costs and contracted liabilities			24241.88	24241.88
Total Restricted Expenditure	79158.16	12500.00	42225.17	133883.33

Independent Examiner's Certificate for Stranton PCC Accounts: Charity Number: 1134753

I report to the trustees of: All Saints Stranton Parochial Church Council on accounts for the year ended 31 December 2022

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act), and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

Independent examiner's statement:

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the following requirements have not been met:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act;
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with
- the accounting requirements of the Charities Act;
- to account for statutory fees correctly.

2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed: Clive Rathbone Date: 6 May 2023

21 Wolviston Road Hartlepool TS25 5AP: Methodist Circuit Treasurer (Retired)

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ALL SAINTS, STRANTON

England & Wales - Charity number 1134753

Accounts

ALL SAINTS, STRANTON CHURCH
HARTLEPOOL

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2021



Rooted in God's love,
Growing together with Jesus,
Branching out in the power of the Spirit.

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Vicar's Report for Stranton Church 2021
Written on Easter Day 2022

[10] This is what the Lord says: 'When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will come to you and fulfil my good promise to bring you back to this place. [11] For I know the plans I have for you,' declares the Lord, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.' From Jeremiah 29

In the time I have thought and prayed about this year's APCM, the above verses have kept coming back as a theme for the Church Community at Stranton. 2021 was the year of continued pandemic and significant transition. Thankfully we have not experienced 70 years exile but we have all been through a tough time. None the less God is with us and I do believe his promise is for his work to continue to prosper in our midst. So then may we press forward in faith.

Many of you reading this will be aware that Julie and I have experienced some very difficult circumstances recently. As I write I am still positive for Covid. I am therefore simply going to put a few bullet points together trusting that this will suffice as my report:

- Teamwork and ministry: Firstly my thanks goes to all who minister here, lay and ordained. The team here is amazing. Increasingly we have seen that we can step away and Church continues to happen. Thank you in particular to Peter Anderson who is stepping down as Church warden after 6 years, I am sure we all recognise Peter works incredibly hard with little or no fuss. Thank you.
- During the year both Clive Hall and Michelle Delves finished their training for ministry and are now recommended to seek a post of significant responsibility. Rachel Price continued as our contextual ordinand while Lizelke Klindt finished early as an MEV to concentrate on her PhD and return to South Africa. In November we were joined on placement by Anita Burke a final year ordinand from Lindisfarne RTP. Mary Tones (reader), Rev Andrew Craig and Rev Kevin Tones also continue to offer authorised ministry within the parish. In the summer Mother Gemma left St Aidan's so the above clergy are now working as a team across three parishes. In July I announced my plans to retire in the summer of 2022 allowing the commencement of a recruitment process which hopefully will culminate in a clergy appointment in June 2022. Thankyou to all those who committed to working with Sheila Bamber in the prioritisation process.
- Pandemic: Early in the year some of the services were streamed from church, but in person services continued throughout the year despite the Delta Wave in November and December. In the summer we restarted singing in person, alleluia! Communion continues to be offered in two kinds through intinction. We have continued to stream both 9am and 11am, more recently in a simpler way. We returned to offering refreshments in the autumn using the new facilities at the back of Church. We celebrated Christmas in person including hosting the Group Carol service and a Christingle where we were joined by Stranton School. Morning prayer continues daily through the week on zoom.
- The decisions regarding Burbank Community Church were implemented during 2021. Clive Hall led a service of thanksgiving for Burbank Community Church later in the year.
- Bereavement: Sadly a number of long standing key members during the year and others have experienced significant long term health problems. The pastoral care group continues to support the housebound and lonely. Funerals continued through the year with a gradual move

back to services in Church. Both weddings and baptisms returned with a bang as the restrictions lifted with really significant numbers of services in the summer. As part of the process towards baptism we restarted 'welcome services' as part of Lighthouse monthly.

- Sunday Club, Messy Church, Toddlers and cake and Coffee all restarted in the autumn with surprisingly good numbers. Folk really wanted to get out and meet each other. Thank again to all who make these things happen.
- The St Matthew's Community Centre worked hard to provide a safe place for community use. As the year went on we were able to open up with really good footfall including several new groups. There was a health and safety incident on 15 September 2021 reported elsewhere.
- Schools work has continued either on line or in person depending on the prevailing conditions. Ward Jackson remains a priority for our Church (worship, school visits, governors and chaplaincy) but the clergy team and communities of hope team have worked with our regular school contacts: Stranton, Eldon Grove and Kingsley as well across the town St Aidan's, Throston and Eskdale.
- Michelle has maintained our links with Elwick Grange nursing home where monthly communions have now restarted.
- Norman continued as Civic chaplain for another year. We hosted two civic services in the autumn and Norman led the Remembrance Day service at the cenotaph in Victory Square.
- Throughout 2021 we continued to work with asylum seekers. Numbers are lower than previously experienced but alongside a continuing Iranian group we established a small group consisting of Iraqis and Eritreans, this latter group again supported by Jo from Communities of Hope. Thankfully after some very long delays these folk are beginning to get their home office interviews allowing things to progress with several of the Iranians being given leave to remain. In the summer we stopped offering in service translation into Farsi because of a lack of translators. More generally as a Church with the Afghan crisis PCC decided to sign up as a Welcome Church. We also support through a grant 2 weekly English classes for asylum seekers at the People's centre.
- Communities of Hope established a number of ongoing projects including Syd's Kitchen, The Sewing Bee and a weekly drop in. However we have seen significant staffing changes with Jess leaving to train for ordination and Emma reducing her hours and stepping down as project lead. We appointed Aneta Bradley as the new Project Leader late in the year and pray for more stability, the recruiting of a new team and continued effective outreach in 2022.
- PCC reviewed the support we offer to Missionary Societies. During the year we agreed to adopt two new missionaries supported by CMS and also to offer support to the Kilimatinde Trust, maintaining our link with Tanzania rather than Festo and Grace who are now based in England.
- The screens project was completed. There were on going repairs following a leak in the central heating system in the Fulthorpe Chapel near the kitchen. A significant faculty was submitted for work to the Bells which we anticipate will happen in 2022.

There is probably much more to say but hopefully this gives a flavour of the year just passed. Amidst all the struggles, both individual and corporate, God is good. May we together discover a place of wellbeing and community growing in love, peace hope and joy. May we know God given abundant life that ripples out into our town and may God indeed prosper his work.

Every blessing.
Norman

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

All Saints, Stranton Church is situated in Church Row, Hartlepool TS24 7QT. It is part of the Diocese of Durham within the Church of England. The correspondence address is Stranton Church Office, St Matthew's Community Centre, Arncliffe Gardens Entrance, Hartlepool TS26 9JF.

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a charity excepted from registration with the Charity Commission

PCC members who have served from 1st January 2021 until the date this report was approved are:

Priest in Charge: The Rev'd Norman Shave Chairman

Wardens: Mr Peter Anderson
Mr Rohan Wanduragala

Representatives on the Deanery Synod:
Mr Andrew Rogers
Mrs Sylvia Shepherd

Elected members:
Mrs Maureen Anderson Secretary
Mrs Azam Chaichi
Mrs Angela Craig
Mr David Craig Treasurer
Mrs Diane Greenwood
Mr David House
Mrs Cheryl Mills
Mrs Lynda Parvin
Mrs Jacqui Rogers
Mrs Mary Tones

Ex-officio members:
Rev'd Michelle Delves

Co-opted members:
Mr Clive Hall

The full PCC met eight times during the year with an average level of attendance of 70%. Committees met between meetings and minutes of their deliberations were received by the full PCC and discussed where necessary.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All Church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

ELECTORAL ROLL

There are 93 parishioners on the Church Electoral Roll, parish. Six names were removed and one name added during the year.

Ken Shepherd
Electoral Roll Officer

FINANCE REPORT

Once again God has been faithful to us in our finances for 2021. The Church had an overall net surplus of **£1,814 in** 2021 (2020 - £5,689): This small net surplus for the year is a however combination of a deficit of **£6,085** on the church General fund - after charging half the cost of the Audio visual equipment as depreciation (2020 - £9,762 surplus on General Fund) offset by a surplus of £7,899 on St Matthews Community Centre account (reversing the 2020 Community Centre deficit of £4,073).

As reported last year the bequest of the late Margaret Lumley, received in the 2020 financial year, substantially enabled us to fund the "accessible" capital works and new servery in the previous year and to generate £9,500 of the surplus brought forward for 2021 to offset the expected deficit for that year. The out-turn for 2021 was in fact slightly better than expected, taking into consideration the large increase in depreciation arising from the investment in Audio Visual equipment.

The Covid – 19 pandemic continues to affect some aspects of our revenues. St Matthews Community Centre recovered very substantially but not yet fully, mainly because the Centre Management were able to secure some public sector contracts as part of the pandemic response. These contracts are not being renewed and the Centre management are aware of the financial need to attract new and returning users. In the church General fund, net Fees and Occasional Services income continue to be depressed and the Burbank Community Church has ceased meeting. Again we have lost some of our regular faithful members who have died, and not been replaced in our giving and loyalty schemes, leading to some concerns over the future of regular giving. We have for the time being continued to benefit through some generous "one-off" donations, a large part of which was earmarked to meet the costs of employment of our lay staff.

In our expenditures, we met our agreed Parish share to the Diocese in full at £34,033: we were asked for a further 10% increase for 2022 but have in fact committed to a lower but achievable £35,250: this is still a challenge at nearly £3,000 a month but as we seek the appointment of a new incumbent and continue to benefit in many ways from Diocesan services and support, we must recognise the need to "pay our way" in meeting the costs of stipends pensions and ministry support. We will have to be super-efficient and exercise careful stewardship of our resources in the light of rapidly rising costs especially in the areas of energy and office supplies.

The Hartlepool Communities of Hope team, which Stranton PCC "Hosts" on behalf of the Central Hartlepool Group in the largest of our restricted funds, which creates neither deficit nor surplus as it passes through our accounts as "Ring fenced" resources. We will shortly be required to consider its longer term sustainability as one of the main project outcomes. The other major restricted effort of the year was in the direct fundraising of over £51,000 with gift aid and grant income promised for the refurbishment of our bells, which have not had a major overhaul for 70 years. We were supported financially by Grant funding in other ways too – for the Olive Branch allotment, for the living costs of our Ministry Experience Volunteer Lizelke Klindt (who will be returning to the UK in September 2022 to undertake Theological training), for costs of repairs, and for many small but necessary items of Kit to complete our Audio visual project and enable video mixing and live streaming of services and other events.

I would particularly like to thank those who have continued to give in a planned and prayerful manner through Bank Standing orders and the Parish Giving scheme (PGS) and to those who continue to use their weekly envelopes too. I encourage all who are not already members to consider joining the PGS – it can be done entirely confidentially and online!

To close my report I would like to thank you for all your generosity, especially for the wise support and encouragement of Maureen Anderson as Assistant Treasurer, the Churchwardens Peter and Rohan and to Ken Shepherd and the counting team for their unseen but unstinting support.

David Craig
Hon Treasurer, April 2022

BUILDING AND FABRIC OF THE CHURCH

We would like to thank the many in the congregation who have helped and continue to help with all the work that goes to make the church a house of prayer, a place for worship and welcome (the readers, intercessors, cleaners, those decorating the church for services, greeting people, making tea and coffee etc). A big 'Thank you' from the Churchwardens.

Just as importantly, we would like to thank Norman and Julie on behalf of the congregation for their service in Stranton over the past 10 years. Likewise we would like to take this opportunity to express our appreciation to Clive and Michelle and all of the ministry team for all their work.

Thanks to Angela Craig and David House as assistant churchwardens for their help and guidance.

1. Buildings

Quinquennial Inspection: The inspection was carried out on 15th November 2021. It was due in 2022 but was brought forward as the architect was involved in surveys associated with the bell project and it was felt that combining the two inspections/surveys would be of benefit to us. We are awaiting his report. This should be with us soon.

Heating: Annual boiler service completed on 1st October 2021. Repair of leaking pipe in Fulthorpe Chapel has been completed after a few attempts; the steps will be re-instated shortly.

Routine Inspections/service:

- Fire: Inspection of the fire extinguishers completed - 18th March 2021 and 31st March 2022
- Asbestos: Survey carried out as part of the requirement for the bell project (tower) and extended to cover the whole church. Church building is clear of asbestos. Church Organ's sealed blower unit may contain asbestos; any maintenance of this unit will need to take this into consideration. Compliant warning signage has been attached.
- ADT Alarm - routine inspection and service 9th July 2021
- Lightning Protection System - inspected and tested on 31st August 2021
- Clock - annual service - 25th November 2021
- Archdeacons visit: This was completed on 19th August 2021 - no issues.
- An inspection of articles belonging to the church (terrier) was satisfactorily completed in March 2022.
- other minor maintenance tasks are scheduled and monitored by the Churchwardens who maintain a record in the Church log book

Visual & Sound System: Paul Anderson and Mark Rattigan have done a great deal of work and spent a lot of time overseeing the installation and ensuring the system works. Thanks to them for their hard work and commitment.

Gardening Thanks to Pam Stockton for doing the flower beds which look lovely. Also the Council have been very helpful in maintaining the church yard. *Hartlepool Borough Council has accepted responsibility for dealing with this .*

Brewery Parking - Working well / good relationship with the brewery. Regular checks made to ensure sufficient parking places are available.

2. Church Bell refurbishment

We are immensely grateful to Andy Kaye and Andrew Frost for their work in overseeing the whole project; obtaining quotes, organising meetings with contractors etc, and most importantly in raising funds. Thanks also to Maureen Anderson for the considerable amount of administrative work connected with this project, not least in 'chasing up' the Faculty application. The progress of this project is reported by the bellringers.

Vicar appointment

The advertisement has been placed with the interview date set for 1st June 2022.
Two reps from each of the 3 churches making up the CHGC (Central Hartlepool Group of Churches) will be on the interview panel, which will also include Bishop Sarah (Bishop of Jarrow) and Archdeacon Rick Simpson, a total of 8.

The two reps from Stranton are Andrew Rogers (Lay Chair PCC) and Rohan Wanduragala (Churchwarden) with Mary Tones as a standby in case either Andrew or Rohan are unable to attend.

The first appointment is for a 'Priest –in- charge' to replace Norman. This will be followed by a second appointment, maybe in two years' time.

The Clergy Role Description and Parish profiles can be viewed on the diocesan web site under vacancies. Please do have a look. VACANCY: PRIEST-IN-CHARGE WITHIN THE CENTRAL HARTLEPOOL GROUP MINISTRY (CHGM) - Diocese of Durham (durhamdiocese.org)

Rohan Wanduragala, Peter Anderson
Churchwardens

HEALTH AND SAFETY REPORT

1. Health and Safety Incident

On 15th September 2021 an incident occurred at St Matthew's Community involving a chemical fogging machine while an employee was in the building. The employee needed to be taken for emergency medical care and has experienced on going symptoms. The incident was reported to our insurers, internally the next PCC and externally to both the Health and Safety Executive and the Charity Commission. We subsequently received a letter from the Local Authority. All appropriate steps were taken to review procedures, prevent this happening again and ensure the safety of all meeting in St Matthew's Community Centre. We have also sought to provide support and care for the individuals involved.

Norman Shave
19 March 2022

2. Health and Safety Audit of the church was carried out by Angela Craig and Peter Anderson in March 2022.

The following matters are noted from that inspection

- The carpet in church is wearing in high use areas and we are increasingly using tape to secure joins. The carpet is safe but will need to be replaced in part or in full. The audio visual project eliminated the need to run cables across or under carpets, a big safety improvement.
- The Fulthorpe chapel kitchen vinyl needs patching by the sink, and the temporary steps removed as the permanent repair is completed.
- Lighting to the rear path to church should be improved as the brewery lighting has not been repaired and is reduced.
- Due to pandemic circumstances, we have not yet managed to carryout fire and emergency response training with the sides-persons, vergers and various group leaders who all need to act as fire wardens along with the Churchwardens. We wish to carry out this "emergency response" training as soon as possible
- Annual PAT testing has been maintained by Paul Anderson
- Emergency lighting was checked last year. Fixed wire testing is not yet due.
- See church buildings report (page 6-7) for other maintenance items

Angela Craig, Peter Anderson

DEANERY SYNOD REPORT

Like most groups, during the year the Deanery Synod meetings were seriously affected by covid restrictions, so there's not a huge amount of detail to report. However, a number of events took place that are also ongoing and which will impact on the Deanery.

Communities of Hope: C of H continues to work across, and is supported by, the 3 parishes of the Central Group. The latest recruitment process is almost complete. The many worthwhile projects (e.g. St Aidan's Kitchen, Sid's Café, meeting with ex-offenders, Forest Church etc.) maintain momentum and increase in participants.

Deanery Planning: Fr Graeme Buttery left St Oswald's earlier in the year. He will be greatly missed, not only by the Christian community, but also by Brougham School. Fr Richard of St Paul's has taken oversight and leadership, as anticipated in the Deanery Plan. Our Central Group vacancy is currently being advertised.

Living in Love and Faith: many resources are available for parishes wishing to explore this thought provoking topic. Videos can be downloaded along with a range of publications, from single page leaflets through to a 400 page book.

Tall Ships 2023: The Deanery hope to co-ordinate a Christian presence in the Tall Ships "village". However, Hartlepool Borough Council has yet to establish a formal steering group, but contact is ongoing.

Andrew Rogers

SAFEGUARDING - CHILD AND VUNERABLE ADULT PROTECTION

This year has seen significant changes to the safe recruitment of volunteers and staff that work with children. Clive has lead on ensuring that we are compliant with diocesan policies, which now include more formalised procedures around applying for voluntary youth and children's work positions. Every year we submit a parish safeguarding checklist via the PCC. We comply with the list from the diocese in almost every area, except for some new areas around training in and monitoring of social media. We have committed to getting up to date with policies and training within the next six months.

A key change in DBS policy also took place this year, with the renewal date moving from five years to three years. We have a rolling programme to ensure we observe this over the next two years – the timeframe provided by the diocese.

Most safeguarding training now occurs online. Five people have undergone the 'Safer Recruitment' training over the last 12 months, which is a requirement for making appointments to any youth and children's work. Seven people undergoing the Basic and/or Foundation training. Clive maintains a register of dates church leaders and volunteers have undergone training. This diocese now expect anyone in positions where safeguarding training is required, to undergo it within 6 months of the past certificate expiring.

There have been no major safeguarding incidents reported this year.

The PCC has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults).

Peter Hart

GATHERED WORSHIP IN STRANTON PARISH

There is a regular pattern of worship services across the parish, both weekly and monthly. The services are held in Church and St Matthew's Hall. Each service has its own characteristics. We hope and pray that there is something for those who have been part of a worshipping community for a long time and those attending for the first time. The pattern is summarised as follows –

Stranton Church

Sundays

9:00	Holy Communion	A quiet said service using traditional liturgy
11:00	Morning Worship (provision for all ages)	Each Sunday has a different characteristic. Generally the services are relaxed and welcoming including a mix of contemporary music and hymns. 1st and 3rd Sundays include communion 4th Sunday, Lighthouse is a good service to try if you are new to church, it includes welcomes for families wanting baptism.

St Matthew's Community Centre

4:00 second Sunday only	Messy Church	A service for families based around craft, story and sharing tea together

Wednesdays

10:00	Holy Communion	A said midweek communion in a more accessible venue.

WORSHIP TEAM

We were so pleased when congregational singing was re-introduced last Easter (albeit with face masks). Singing our praises to God is such an integral part of our Church services.

We have continued to meet before the Sunday services to practise. It's been great to have Stella as part of our team in recent months too.

My thanks go to Angela and Seth who also lead our worship allowing me time away or a chance to be in the congregation.

Please pray for those who will continue to choose, co-ordinate and lead our music and help with preparing PowerPoints in the coming months.

Julie Shave

COMMUNITY WORKER

Chaplain of Ward Jackson School.

I have seen an increase to the amount of times I have been asked to go into the school and take an RE lesson. I have subjects like, how does the Holy Spirit help Christians? Plus 'What type of world

did Jesus want? Even, what does a priest do during the week? On top of that I have taken two Baptism services in two different classes, just pretending of course.
I have also taken worship within school some of them were on Zoom when Covid rules applied.
I have hosted a class in church, which had a special moment when all 23 children were kneeling at the high alter and we listen for the voice of God. Plus whole school came in for Harvest and Christmas services.
I have been making myself available for parents in the playground each week.
Norman, Julie and I have also been into Eldon Grove Primary school to take their assemblies.

Overseer for Youth, Children and Family work

There is a process to go through when you want to become a volunteer in church. There is always a DBS check made and there is compulsory training on safeguarding. This year there has been an additional increase to this process. Safer Recruitment policy made by the Durham Diocese has been adopted by our PCC. This does add more work and policies that volunteers have to be made aware of and more interviews and increase to the overseeing of a volunteer.

This is all put in place to make sure all youth and children and vulnerable people are being well protected by the church.

I am a leader for YF and we have 6 youths coming along from 11-18 years old. We would like to increase that number so if you know anybody who would like to come along let me know. We are also looking for new leaders to come forward, let me know if you're interested.

Home group

We meet every other week and it has been good to welcome back someone who had left for a little while. We have a social time together and a spiritual thought for the day.

Alpha Course

We knew of a number of people that where interested in starting an Alpha course so we set one up and we have now done 6 sessions. There are 9 people attending the course along with Angela and I. The course is going very well we do have some good questions and good discussions together.

Priest Role

With Mother Gemma leaving we did expect an increase to the Priestly duties for the remaining clergy. This definitely has happened and caused us all to be taking different services across our group of churches. We greatly appreciate all the lay people who help in putting these services together also.

Once Covid restriction opened there was a rush of baptisms which sometime meant all three clergy were taking three baptisms on the same Sunday. This has now slowed down.

Angela and I also led some of the Wedding Preparation day for the first time, we enjoyed working has a team and a good day was had, we finished with a great Buffet meal which went down well, thanks for all who helped in making the day a success.

Personal News

It was about this time last year I was awaiting to hear if I had been fully signed off as a Priest. I did get the positive letter through and I made an appointment to see our Archdeacon Rick Simpson. This was to discuss the future and to be told about the process of applying for clergy vacancies that came up. I was told at this meeting that there would be no advertisement of job for 4 months, and then the jobs would come out about one a month. In reality there as only been three clergy jobs advertised in 10 months!

While waiting and watching I have realised that some jobs I can't apply for because they ask for experienced ministers and then the jobs a curate can apply for as lots of curates applying and so it is hard to be short listed for an interview. I have informed you of that because this leaves me feeling a little frustrated that I am so unsure to what the future holds or its time table. But I do need to close with is a big thank-you for Stranton church in all their support to myself and my family while we go through this process, it is much appreciated indeed.

Reverend Clive Hall

STRANTON TODDLER GROUP

It was very encouraging to re-open the group in St Matthews Hall in September. I run the group on Tuesdays and Clare and Lynn run the Friday sessions. As the covid risk reduced significantly we restarted tentatively keeping our activities well-spaced and sharing very simple snacks to minimise infection risks.

Families were very pleased to return and quickly everything seemed "normal" again – so good to see the children playing together and parents / carers chatting and supporting one another.
It's been great to have help in the kitchen from Emma (CoH) each week and Mary, Joyce and Angela helping when available.

I shall miss the many friends I have made there when we move in the summer and pray God will provide someone the keep the Tuesday session running.

Julie

MESSY CHURCH

What a joy to be able to meet again. We have changed our week to the 2nd Sunday in each month. It's also been great to welcome back all the helpers from before the pandemic and to have Rachel, Stella and Aneta boosting our team.

We've been able to re-engage with many of the families who were coming pre-pandemic and to welcome new families (several from toddlers).

We have changed our use of the two halls – mainly to keep people spaced out. Having our worship time with bible story, song and prayer in the small hall had worked really well as the acoustics are so much better. We've been spacing out our crafts and games in the big hall.

Thankyou to Mary who helps planning our sessions and to all the helpers with both crafts and food – special thanks to Maureen and Peter who prepare a wonderful tea for us all to share at the end.

We are looking forward to Messy Easter on Good Friday morning.

Mary has kindly offered to take on leading Messy Church from July…do hold her in your prayers as she takes on this valuable ministry.

Julie Shave

SUNDAY CLUB

Due to Covid it has been a challenge at times to ensure that Sunday Club was able to occur. At Christmas the Sunday Club took part in a Nativity and all of the children received a small present. Sunday Club took a short break during January to February, as the numbers of Covid cases rose, but has since returned and is being well attended.

The numbers range from 3 – 12 children and the age range is 5 – 14. Thank you to all of our leaders and helpers including Mary, Rachel, Gill, Pam and Helen for volunteering this year. Unfortunately, as Rachel leaves us we will be in need of an additional leader so volunteers are very welcome.

Kate Lawson Sunday Club Leader

YF continued by using Skype during Covid so we were very grateful to be able to be together in person and do games and talking about God where it is easier to communicate.
YF continues to grow and changes this year to our team we have added Rachel to Clive, Michaela and Peter and have been blessed by her contributions to the running of YF and pray for her as she moves on in her ministry. Beth has become our junior leader and is taking responsibility for games and offering a youth perspective to our discussions.

We have been to Pulse the Durham Diocese Youth Meetings at Durham Cathedral and have enjoyed our trips there to worship with other young Christian people.

We have been using material which combines talking points with games around the themes such as Easter or self-image to talk about our faith. The young people vocalise well what they feel and have safe space to do so. We have created a cosy area in the vestry for when we do our God talks and we find this works well for getting into the right space to talk about God.

Thank you for your continued prayers

YF Leadership Team

The Rainbows Group no longer meet at St Matthews. They have merged with the Seaton Group, the reason given - *not enough leaders*.

Stranton Brownies & Guides

2021, another strange year!

We continued using Zoom until mid-June when we had 3 meetings outdoors up at West Rugby Club but had one on zoom as we kept getting updates of girls testing positive the next day!

One of the strange positive outcomes of the zoom meetings, has been that we have had one Brownie achieve GOLD the highest award in any section. We had the award ceremony in outside the family home in Wansbeck Gardens, a few Brownies and Guides were able to attend, we had cakes and juice, presenting The Gold Award badge and Certificate to Lara. A lovely event during very difficult times.

Many of the girls struggled with Zoom as did the leaders having to weekly modify the programme (which is organised with social interaction) to work on Zoom (each girl isolated). We have had fun sessions but the girls find it difficult to communicate with us or each other. On a positive note, we have had some girls' return, after such a long break who didn't join on zoom or drifted away from the zoom meetings, it has been wonderful to be guiding again with them. Also, during the time on zoom we have had new members join in both Brownies and Guides, they are a credit to themselves,

achieving a lot and managing to join fully into the face-to-face meetings. Some of the in Brownies are now some of our oldest Brownies

September arrived, but we had made the decision to meet on zoom for two weeks, then return face to face at the hall but using the car park for the meetings. We managed this for Brownies up to half term and played the first game outside until the middle of November. Unfortunately, some parents found this difficult to understand – so we lost girls.

We found meeting inside strange and a little stressful but as time has passed, the Brownies have started to settle in, as most have never met in the hall. The Guides took it in their stride, all following the protocol set down by Girlguiding and the hall. We are looking forward, in the future, to going back to the original times for the meetings.

The Spring term 2022 things are more social for the girls, group activities fun games, crafts all starting up again Hurrah!!!!!!!

At the start of the year, we had two new leaders but in October both said they were struggling, so at the moment, they are not with us and are not sure if they will return, they were a huge positive to the meetings so are very much missed.
If there is anyone that would be interested in becoming a helper and/or Leader please contact me

Cheryl Mills
(Leader with Brownies & Guides)

4th Hartlepool Boys Brigade
Founded 1930
HQ - St. Matthews Community Centre

Find us on Facebook

It's good to report that we are still a fully functional Boys Brigade Company coming out the pandemic

We re-started fully on April 12th 2021 in all Sections

Our Numbers are Anchor Boys 13 Juniors 16 Company 14 and have maintained our leaders

We took part in the Harvest Festival, Mother's day Service and our Company will be playing our part in Easter Eggheads
We have held a Christmas Fayre since the pandemic rules were relaxed and are planning a Summer Fayre and Open Night

We are also holding our first camp near Pickering and so far 10 lads have booked their places

We have been visited by the Community Police and Territorial Army and clergy visits are re-starting

We have followed the story of Jonah (inspired by Michelle) and the Lord's Prayer - all backed up with activities

Our general programme has involved various games, challenges, marching, drill and competitions, all of which you can see on our Facebook page

Finally although we have a good leadership team - we could do with a female leader to help with the Anchor Boys on a Friday Night

George Bainbridge
Leader in Charge, 4th Hartlepool Boys Brigade

PASTORAL GROUP

We are currently a team of 6 – Mary Tones, Ian Walker, Rohan Wanduragala, Diana Wanduragala (associate member) and myself, led by Michelle. Since coming out of the various lockdowns, and as things have settled into a more normal pattern, the pastoral team have been able to return to visiting those who feel confident enough for us to do so, with telephone contact still being used where this has not been possible or as an addition to face-to-face contact. Sometimes pastoral care comes in the form of going for a walk together or meeting for coffee and home communion is still provided for those who want it – we are very flexible!

Unfortunately, during this last year several of our pastoral contacts have passed away – Prebekha Apti, Evelyn Hartley, Carol Moore and most recently Pam Thompson. We feel their loss, but we are grateful to have been able to be there for them and remember with gratitude the time we spent together.

Many of the people we were contacting during the various stages of the pandemic have now returned to church, but we have repeated our delivery of Christmas and Easter cards to those who are still unable to attend services. They also receive copies of the weekly notice sheet, Signpost and in some cases bible notes, which all helps to keep them in the loop with what is going on in our church life.

Last year, Michelle re-introduced the opening up of the church building for two hours on Saturday mornings as a pastoral outreach strategy, giving people the opportunity to come in for a look round, to sit and reflect in a quiet and peaceful space or to have someone to talk to (all with the additional option of tea/coffee and a biscuit). Sometimes our visitors have just been walking past, seen the door open and wandered in. We have had people visit who attended services or celebrated weddings years ago or have a family connection with Stranton, whilst others have come to satisfy an interest in the history of the church (David House is usually on hand to help with this). These sessions have been suspended over the winter months, but are re-starting on 16 April and Michelle would love to hear from anyone who would be willing to volunteer for an occasional Saturday morning.

Michelle has also joined the Stranton lunch club which meets regularly for Sunday lunch and has been attending the coffee, cake and company afternoons at St Matthews, which she sees as a way of keeping in touch with people, as well as spending time with newer, younger members of the congregation. The excellent Lent course at St Luke's has also been instrumental in developing pastoral relationships across the three parishes and Michelle is currently planning a prayer and healing service to be held in May. All these activities are ways of reaching out and caring for each other.

There are now cards at the back of church which can be used (for themselves or others) by anyone wanting to request to be contacted by Michelle or a member of the pastoral team.

Pam Stockton

MOTHERS` UNION REPORT

Due to Covid we were unable to hold our meetings until September 2021. It was a Blessing to be able to meet again with our fellow members and catch up with what news that had filtered through our leaders in Durham and London.

Rev'd Micelle Delves is a member and spoke to us about how she was let to train as a Priest. We have been praying for her and all our clergy, churchwardens and for our church during these difficult times of lockdowns and injections.

In December we had an outing to the Marine Hotel in Seaton Carew for a Christmas Lunch which was enjoyed by all.

We recently renewed our M.U. vows led by our Deanery Leader Pamela Harding. We had hoped to enrol a new member who was unable to attend and will be enrolled in future.
Unfortunately we were unable to restart after Christmas due to further outbreaks of Covid in Hartlepool, but are now back in St Matthew's Community Centre.

Membership dropped slightly in 2021, two members resigned after illness. We now have fourteen faithful members.

I would like to thank Joan Herbert for serving many years as Treasurer. Joan kept our accounts in excellent order and was, and still is a great help to me. Also, I would like to thank Julie Shave for providing musical accompanying as we sing during our meetings. We will miss you Julie.

God Bless
Ann Courtenay
Branch Leader

BELLRINGING REPORT

Stranton's Tower Captain, Andy Kaye continues to suffer from bad health and, very reluctantly, has had to stand down from both ringing and his position. Andy's deputy, Joseph Wilson has stepped in as Tower Captain and he is well liked and supported by all the Hartlepool ringers.

Bell ringing at Stranton and the other two church towers has resumed as normal after lifting of government COVID restrictions. However, we continue to exercise precautions although some of us have been taken ill with COVID in recent months; all are now recovered.

Numbers of active ringers remain good but we have recently lost three of our regulars. Brian Telfer, sadly, passed await after a short illness, Olwyn Buttery has moved to Australia and Elle Buttery (no relative) has moved with her family to Lancashire. We will be looking for recruits.

The church kindly offered its facilities for the Thanksgiving Service, on Saturday 2nd April for Brian Telfer. Brian learned to ring at Stranton in his teens, joined the Army but on his return to Hartlepool he took it up again with renewed enthusiasm and was a respected and loyal member of the ringers. Our grateful thanks go to Peter Anderson as Churchwarden and to Paul Anderson who streamed the service for many friends of Brian to view including in Germany where he spent many years on military duty.

The faculty for refurbishment of Stranton's bells has taken a long time to be processed. Sufficient funds have been raised, the prime contractor, Taylor's of Loughborough and their subcontractors have been waiting patiently to start work. The Diocesan Clock Advisor has visited and has advised how the clock can be protected during the project. There is a slight possibility that bats may be using the belfry as a summer roost and a bat survey will be carried out during May. The Church Buildings Council advised the Diocese that in their opinion No 6 bell should not be retuned as it is a listed bell c1599.

The PCC appealed against this.
After considering the representations and evidence the Chancellor's judgement is - *Accordingly, a faculty will be granted for the full scope of the proposed works, including the retuning of bell no.6.*

We hope the work on the bells will start before the end of June.

Andrew Frost and Joseph Wilson Tower Captain

ST MATTHEW'S COMMUNITY CENTRE ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT

The hall has been open now since April 12th 2021 since when groups have slowly returned as confidence has grown on how to manage Covid19.

Very much start and stop throughout 2021 with many changes in guidelines and regulations which were finally all lifted in July. By the end of September most groups had returned to the hall along with a number of new users. All of whom have grown in confidence in managing Covid19.

At the beginning of the year the new emergency lighting system installation was finally completed. This project was, in part, funded by a donation from the Communities of Hope capital buildings budget. In July we received a donation of £1,000 from the Probation Service towards kitchen equipment.

Social events such as Christmas Fairs have been held plus an Open Day for all hall users to display their activities was held together with JRF, CoH and BVNRA to allow residents hosted to see the facilities St Matthews has to offer and an opportunity for residents to give feedback on their expectations from their local community.

Working with BVNRA and the D543 campaign, in November we launched a fundraising appeal to finance the installation of a defibrillator at St Matthews. Within weeks we had raised the funds with matched funding from BVNRA and SMCC as well as generous donations from committee members and great support from many user groups in SMCC. The Defib was installed outside the small hall at the end of November.

During the Autumn we were able to accommodate the Regional Health Authority as a safe venue for vaccination clinics.

The car park was marked with a running track and was well used by Boys Brigade plus Guides and Brownies have used it as a safe way of meeting.

Going forward we will have to look at hiring rates as fuel costs will inevitably go up and decide what improvements we would like to make for the future.

The problem of litter is still there - even storm Arwen could not blow it all away.

Many thanks go to all those who have helped to keep the hall going through a difficult time, especially to Carol who inspired and helped a lot of hall users to develop Covid safety procedures to work to, and to Maureen for looking after the accounts.

George Bainbridge

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish

of

All Saints, Stranton

Charity Registration Number 1134753

Accounts for the year to 31 December 2021

Independent Examiner's Certificate for Stranton PCC Accounts: Charity Number: 1134753

I Report to the trustees of: All Saints Stranton Parochial Church Council on accounts for the year ended 31 December 2021

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act), and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

Independent examiner's statement:

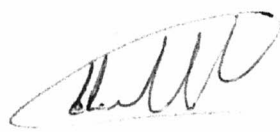
My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the following requirements have not been met:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act;
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with
- the accounting requirements of the Charities Act;
- to account for statutory fees correctly.

2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:  Date: 24 April 2021

Name: Clive Rathbone (Retd. Hon. Treasurer, Castle Eden Methodist Circuit)

Address: 21 Wolviston Rd Hartlepool TS25 5AP

All Saints Stranton Parochial Church Council

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 December 2021

	Note:	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	TOTAL 2021	FUNDS 2020
Incoming resources						
Incoming resources from donors	2a	69,911	42,049	-	111,960	68,461
Other voluntary incoming resources	2b	4,720	119,125	-	123,845	95,986
Income from charitable and ancillary trading	2c	29,568	-	-	29,568	9,494
Other ordinary incoming resources	2d	422	-	-	422	-
Income from investments	2e	263	-	-	263	256
Total incoming resources		104,884	161,174	-	266,057	174,196
Resources Expended						
Grants to Home and overseas mission and other charities	3a	7,884	1,000	-	8,884	5,585
Activities Directly relating to the work of the Church	3b	68,754	160,174	-	228,928	144,212
Fund Raising and Publicity	3c	-	-	-	-	-
Church Management and Administration	3d	26,431	-	-	26,431	18,711
Total resources Expended		103,069	161,174	-	264,243	168,508
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources: Hall		**7,899**				
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources: Church		-6,085	**1,814**	**-**	**-**	**1,814**	**5,689**
Other Net Gains/losses:			-	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds			**1,814**	**-**	**-**	**1,814**	**5,689**
Balances Brought Forward at 1 January 2021			118,025	95,236	9,360	222,620	216,932
Balances Carried Forward at 31 December 2021			119,839	95,236	9,360	224,435	222,620

All Saints Stranton Parochial Church Council

Statement of Financial Position at 31 December 2021	Note:	**2021**	**2020**
Fixed Assets			
Tangible fixed Assets	5a	193,143	185,684
Investment Assets	5b	-	-
		193,143	185,684
Current Assets			
Debtors and prepaid expenses	7	26,747	33,833
Short Term Deposits		410	406
Cash at Bank and in Hand		105,777	37,653
		132,934	71,893
Liabilities: Amounts falling due within one year	8	-101,643	-34,956
Net Current (Liabilities)/ Assets		31,291	36,937
Net Assets		224,435	222,620
Funds:	6,9		
Unrestricted reserves (see below)		119,839	118,025
Restricted reserves (Accommodation Buildings and Organ fund)		95,235	95,235
Endowment reserves		9,360	9,360
Total Reserves		224,435	222,620

Approved by resolution of the Parochial Church Council, dated 5th April 2022

Rev'd. Canon Norman Shave (Chairman)

Mr David Craig (Hon. Treasurer)

All Saints Stranton Parochial Church Council Year to 31 December 2021

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year ended 31 December 2021

Note 1 - Accounting policies

1a) Basis of Preparation

These Accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention, as modified by the revaluation of certain assets. They have been prepared to meet the requirements of the Church Accounting Regulations 2011 together with applicable Accounting Standards, the Charities Acts 2011 and 2016 and Statements of Recommended Practice. They have been prepared on an accruals basis to match income and related expenditure relating to the year under review. The statements include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible. Financial statements for various Church related activities or groups for which the PCC is not responsible are not included. Subsidiary Financial statements for activities of the Church Hall and Magazine which are consolidated in these Accounts are available separately. The Accounts do not include the activities of Trust Funds held and administered for the benefit of the PCC by the Diocese of Durham, except so far as income has been received from those funds.

1b) Fixed Assets

Fixed Assets are stated at cost: freehold land and buildings are not depreciated as in the view of the PCC the effect of depreciation of these assets would not be material to an appreciation of the PCC's financial position. Office and computer equipment furniture and fixtures are depreciated using a straight line method over a period (generally 4-5 years) estimated to reflect the useful economic lives and residual values of those assets.

1c) Investments

Investments are revalued annually and carried at the lower of realisable and current market value, the difference between cost and carrying value is recorded in a revaluation reserve where the value is greater than original cost: a provision is made for each investment asset for which the market value is less than its original cost. Reserves and provisions are not netted off.

1d) Stocks

Inventory is stated at the lower of cost and net realisable value and written off as expenditure when issued.

1e) Debtors

Amounts receivable are stated at the value prudently expected to be realised. Full or partial provision is made for bad or doubtful debts as soon as they become apparent.

1f) Liabilities, Provisions, deferred income and capital grants

Full estimates are made of income received in advance and liabilities incurred in the course of the PCC's Activities, and provision made in compliance with current relevant Financial Reporting Standards.

1g) Pensions

Paid Parish workers including Community of Hope Team members who are not directly remunerated by the Diocese of Durham are members of the Defined Contribution Scheme operated by B&CE on behalf of the parish, this scheme complies with the national legal requirements for workplace pensions.

All Saints Stranton Parochial Church Council

Statement of Cash Flows for the year ended 31 December 2021

	2021 Total	2021 Unrestricted	2021 Restricted	*2020 Total*
Operating activities				
Operating surplus 2021	1,814	1,814	0	*5,689*
add items not involving movement of funds: Depreciation	9,068	9,068	0	*801*
Increase/(Decrease) in Creditors	66,687	898	65,789	*3,896*
(Increase)/Decrease in Debtors	7,086	3,417	3,669	*-17,391*
Cash generated from operations	84,655	15,197	69,458	***-7,005***
Capital Cash released from deferred revenue	0		0	*0*
Cash (utilised) in investing activities -Audiovisual System	-16,528	-16,528		*0*
Cash movements from Operating and Investing activities	**68,127**	**-1,330**	**69,458**	**-7,005**
Represented by:				
Church Current account increased (Decreased) balances	63,971	-5,487	69,458	*-2,835*
Hall Current Account (decreased) balance	4,079	4,079	0	*-4,083*
Deposit account increase in balance	4	4	0	*3*
Increase (Decrease) in cash balances (hall)	73	73	0	*10*
Increase (Decrease) in cash balances (church)	0	0	0	*-100*
Net Movement in liquid balances	**68,127**	**-1,330**	**69,458**	**-7,005**

All Saints Stranton Parochial Church Council

Notes to the Financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2021

Heading **2 Incoming resources**	**Unrestricted Funds**	**Restricted Funds**	**Endowment Funds**	**TOTAL 2021**	**FUNDS 2020**
2a Incoming resources from donors					
Planned Giving					
Gift Aided	47,730	-	-	47,730	50,914
Income Tax recoverable on Gift Aid inc donations	11,932	-	-	11,932	12,729
other income tax recoverable	-	-	-	-	-
other Voluntary giving	6,809	1,514	-	8,323	2,578
Other collections	3,440	-	-	3,440	838
Gift Day	-	-	-	-	-
Bell restoration appeal - donations	-	35,880		35,880	
Communities of Hope - Other income	-	4,655	-	4,655	1,402
	69,911	42,049	-	111,960	68,461
2b Other voluntary incoming resources					
Grants - not including Capital Grants	604	9,625	-	10,229	11,266
Bell restoration appeal - Grants	-	15,400		15,400	
Communities of Hope - External Grants	-	7,000	-	7,000	-
Communities of Hope - SDF funding via Diocese	-	68,755	-	68,755	21,546
Appeals etc	412	-	-	412	-
Legacies and Donations,	3,703	14,676	-	18,379	58,105
Income tax recoverable on Gift Aided Donations	0	3,669	-	3,669.00	5,000
Fundraising	-	-	-	-	68
	4,720	119,125	-	123,845	95,986
2c Income from Charitable and ancillary Trading					
Magazines and book sales	10	-	-	10	409
Lettings (Halls etc) net of internal recharge	24,655	-	-	24,655	8,586
Fees	4,833	-	-	4,833	101
Sundry income:	70	-	-	70	398
	29,568	-	-	29,568	9,494
2d Other ordinary incoming resources					
Contribution to secretarial costs	-	-	-	-	-
Insurance claims	422	-	-	422	-
	422	-	-	422	-
2e Income from investments					
Dividends, interest and bonuses, Gross	263	-	-	263	256
Total Incoming Resources:	104,884	161,174	-	266,057	174,196

All Saints Stranton Parochial Church Council

Notes to the Financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2021

3. Resources Expended		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	**TOTAL 2021**	**FUNDS 2020**
3a Grants made						
Missionary and Charitable Giving						
Overseas mission	18	4,500	-	-	4,500	4,500
Relief & development agencies	18	342	-	-	342	0
Home misssions and other Church Societies	18	3,042	1,000	-	4,042	1,085
		7,884	1,000	-	8,884	5,585
3b Activities directly related to the work of the Church						
Ministry:						
Parish Share	19	34,033	-	-	34,033	30,900
Communities of Hope Hartlepool Staff costs	20	-	54,570	-	54,570	16,673
Communities of Hope Hartlepool other operating costs	23	-	18,047		18,047	6,276
Staff expenses, including MEV allowances	21	2,065	3,625	-	5,690	1,951
Property costs - staff accommodation	21	343	-	-	343	993
Church running expenses, excl hall recharge	23	11,480	-	-	11,480	13,296
Church repairs and maintenance	29	3,191	6,514	-	9,705	38,656
Recruitment and training costs	22	156	-	-	156	2,955
Ministry costs excluding Pay cost -Burbank, Youth and families W	22	3,821	-	-	3,821	4,028
Magazine - costs included in Stationery	25	-	-	-	-	0
Church hall running costs	25	9,458	7,793	-	17,251	6,421
Professional fees,surveys etc - 2020 - IN "REPAIRS", 2021 capital	27	-	-	-	-	0
Parish lay worker remuneration	20	4,206	18,345	-	22,551	22,064
Cost of parish events	17	-	-	-	-	0
Defererd Expenditure - Bells restoration	28	-	51,280	-	51,280	0
		68,754	160,174	-	228,928	144,212
3c Fundraising and publicity						
costs associated with generating funds	17	-	-	-	-	-
3c Fundraising and publicity		-	-	-	-	-
3d Church management and administration						
Administrator remuneration incl pension contribution, and expense	20	13,445	-	-	13,445	13,565
Stationery and printing	23	1,169	-	-	1,169	1,502
Hall overhead	23	2,313	-	-	2,313	2,493
Depreciation equipment & computers	23	9,068	-	-	9,068	801
Bank Charges	23	435	-	-	435	351
Legal costs .	23	-	-	-	-	-
		26,431	-	-	26,431	18,711
Total Resources Expended:		103,069	161,174	-	264,243	168,508

All Saints Stranton Parochial Church Council

Notes to the Financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2021

4. Staff costs

Clergy stipends are paid by the Diocese: all other remuneration shown under note 3b and 3d was paid to the Parish lay worker, parish administrator and from October 2020 to the staff working on behalf of the Central Hartlepool Group of Parishes in the Communities of Hope Hartlepool - a project funded by the Diocese of Durham, and include social security costs and pension contributions made under a defined benefit scheme operated by B&CE

5. Fixed Assets

Note: £35,000 "Repairs" to the church building in 2021 included accessibility works and new toilet and servery: these works have not been capitalised

5a Tangible fixed Assets		Freehold Land And Buildings	Equipment, fixtures and computers	TOTAL
Gross book value	At 1 January 2021	178,551	32,338	210,889
	Revaluations	-	-	-
	Disposals	-	-	-
	Additions: audiovisual	-	16,528	16,528
	Capital Grants applied	-		-
	At 31 December 2021	178,551	48,866	227,417
Depreciation	At 1 January 2021		25,205	25,205
	Disposals		-	-
	Charge for the year/impairment		9,068	9,068
	At 31 December 2021		34,273	34,273
Net Book Value	**At 31 December 2021**	**178,551**	**14,593**	**193,143**
	At 31 December 2020	**178,551**	**7,133**	**185,684**

Freehold land and buildings comprise St Matthew's Community Hall, and staff house accommodation at 10 Clarkson Court:

Other Tangible Fixed assets are amortised over periods estimated to reflect their economic lives from the date of acquisition, generally 4 to 5 years. Assets scrapped/sold are disposals

The Church building is not included in the statement of financial position as it has no historic cost record. Church buildings are insured for reinstatement costs

5b Investments:

The PCC does not directly hold any investments but receives income from certain designated trust funds held by Durham Diocese

6 Analysis of net assets by fund	**Unrestrictec Funds**	**Restricted Funds**	**Endowment Funds**	**Total 2021**	**Total 2020**	
Fixed Assets	107460	85,683		193,143	185,684	
	0					
Current Assets	50,447	73,127	9,360	132,934	71,893	
Current Liabilities	-32,185	-69,458		-101,643	-34,956	-69457.91
	119,839	95,235	9,360	224,435	222,620	

7 Debtors:

	2021	**2020**
Tax Recoverable	17,750	15,890
other debtors/receivables	8,997	17,943
	26,747	33,833

8. Liabilities - amounts falling due within one year:

	2021	**2020**
Accruals and deferred income	71,014	14,334
Creditors for goods and services	155	0
Other Provision: mission support	8,000	8,000
Deferred grant and restricted income:	20,400	12,622
Other creditors: Tax and NIC	2,074	0
	101,643	34,956

9 :Funds

	Unrestricted	**Restricted**	**Endowment**	**Total 2021**	**2020**
Unrestricted and Restricted Capital (Buildings) reserves	42,292	85,683		127,975	127,975
					0
Unrestricted - St Matthew's Hall Management Committee	60,347			60,347	52,448
Unrestricted - General Fund:	17,201			17,201	23,286
					0
Restricted: Organ Fund £7,552 and Restoration Bequest £2,000		9,552		9,552	9,552
Endowment funds			9,360	9,360	9,360
	119,839	95,235	9,360	224,435	222,620

Endowment funds consist of a number of specific legacies, the income from which may be used for the general purposes of the PCC

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ALL SAINTS, STRANTON

England & Wales - Charity number 1134753

Accounts

ALL SAINTS, STRANTON CHURCH
HARTLEPOOL

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2020



Rooted in God's love,
Growing together with Jesus,
Branching out in the power of the Spirit.

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Vicar's Report for Stranton Church 2020 (May 2021)

'Remain in me, and I will remain in you' John 15:4

2020 will go down as one of the most challenging years we have ever known. The Coronavirus pandemic had challenges for the world, our country, our community and of course our church. The year has brought a time of constant change and challenge with much uncertainty and yet God has been faithful and the people of our church community have pressed on in love, prayer and fellowship, and have adapted and grown.

At the end of March all gathered church services were stopped as part of the lockdown in response to the pandemic. Our group of churches and each parish responded quickly to the challenges. Michelle was the first to take a Stranton Sunday service online on Mothering Sunday 22 March, and Mother Gemma was the first to take weekday services on line using Facebook live: but fairly quickly as a group we were providing not only regular streamed Sunday worship in a variety of styles but also daily services including morning communions, afternoon reflections and night prayer. After a few weeks we also began using zoom initially for a few meetings but then weekday morning prayer. Between ten and fifteen people now attend these prayers from across the group and town. It's a tribute to the gifts and talents of many in our group that we were able to continue the daily streaming pattern well into 2021 until people started to return to Church. Thank you to all who contributed to our services in this time.

At the beginning of the pandemic we also became very aware of those who were unable to access the on line worship and, in the very strange times, the danger of isolation. To stay in contact the weekly notice sheet was distributed to everyone with whom we had contact, either by email or by hand. Thank you to David and Ian who have done the bulk of distribution during this time. Telephone calls across the congregation were also encouraged, some have at times given small gifts for example flowers at Mothering Sunday and Easter eggs. These little things have made a real difference and enabled us to stay in touch.

At Stranton we reopened for worship in August and even when the lock down was repeated later in the year we continued to stream our Sunday services from church. We now have a broadband link in our church building and have invested in video equipment to improve the streaming from church. The equipment, supplemented with some borrowed microphones from English Martyrs School, was used to produce a very effective on-line carol service. It remains a challenge both to produce good visuals and sound but Paul and the team do an amazing job at our 11am services.

Alongside other buildings St Matthew's Community Centre was forced to close in March. The members of the committee have done an amazing job at making the premises safe and seeking to open as and when it has been possible. Thank you in particular to Carol Laud in keeping things safe. In the summer the probation service committed to using the building for a whole day once a week which has been a real boost to funds in a lean period. The office base for Communities of Hope Hartlepool also opened there in September. The Centre will be in a good position to move forward as the rules are progressively eased in 2021. A particular thank you goes to Barbara Butcher who stood down from the Committee towards the end of 2020. Barbara has been a stalwart servant for many years, raising funds, keeping the accounts, and ensuring the Centre is the well maintained building it is today.

During the year the work to improve accessibility in the church including a new toilet and hospitality area in the former vicar's vestry was completed. The financial report is elsewhere but this work was facilitated by a generous bequest from Margaret Lumley's estate. We also began a project to

replace the temporary screens which represent a considerable health and safety risk with something more permanent. The funds are available for this project and we hope this will be completed in 2021. Thinking more generally about finance I want to thank everyone who has continued to give generously through 2020. Where many churches have really struggled we have benefitted from many people continuing to give through a variety of means, most notably the Parish Giving Scheme. Thank you too to David Craig, Maureen Anderson, Ken and Sylvia Shepherd and the members of the counting team all of whom have continued to help in very trying circumstances.

Over several years we have been working with Rev David Tomlinson to secure funding for a church growth project funded by the Strategic Development Fund (SDF). As the bid developed it became known as 'Communities of Hope' with a focus on outreach to families, children and the more marginalised in our town. This bid was successful and as a result we have been able to employ three staff: a project leader, a family and children's worker and a community evangelist from September 2020. Stranton Parish hosts this project with a legal responsibility for governance, employment and safeguarding. The day to day management of the project is overseen by the 'Steering Group', which is a constituted sub-committee of the PCC, with representation and accountability to our sister parishes within the Group. Mother Gemma supervises the day to day operations

Starting a major project like this in summer 2020 was far from ideal. However the team have spent time building relationships and have been really effective at making connections with a variety of people across the group. At Christmas the team identified over 40 household that were experiencing specific needs and were able to deliver appropriate hampers and Christmas gifts to these individuals and families. These gifts were funded by the generosity of both parishioners and other supporters from across the town. Very late in the day we received a grant from the Love Christmas campaign which enabled to reach out to other households both through local contacts and also through St Aidan's kitchen. Jess the families and children's worker also coordinated an on-line Christingle to a total of eight schools.

We remain committed to serving our parish in a variety of ways. Asylum Seekers have continued to be dispersed to Hartlepool and through the year we have done what we can to support these individuals both through simple acts of service and also supporting those who wish to explore the Christian faith. Like most things the Persian Bible Study stopped in March. But it restarted in the summer using zoom and has continued to meet regularly ever since. Weddings and Baptisms were reduced significantly in 2020 but the clergy carried out a considerable number of funerals including a number related to Covid. The great majority of funerals were held at the crematorium chapel with many restrictions in place. For some this magnified the pain of bereavement and loss significantly and looking forward this remains a significant area for ministry in the future. Where possible we have also continued to build links and minister to our schools.

Our parish and the group continue to be a place where there are many opportunities to learn about Christian Ministry. In September we welcomed Rachel and Seth Price into our community. Rachel is training for Church of England ministry at Cranmer Hall but completing approximately 50% of her training here in Hartlepool. She will be with us until summer 2022. In October we were also joined by Lizelke Klindt a 'ministerial experience volunteer' (MEV). Alongside this Rev Michelle Delves and Rev Clive Hall continue to train for ministry in the Church of England. During the lock down Michelle took the opportunity to work with the volunteers at the "Poolie time exchange" building a number of really good links with our community. In October Clive attended a candidates' panel and from the end of his training in May 2021 he will be able seek a stipendiary job as an ordained priest, in another parish.

In March as part of the lock down Burbank Community Church congregation was forced to shut. As it was based in a school it was not possible to reopen this congregation throughout the rest of the year. Towards the end of the year following a period of prayer I consulted with the Burbank Leadership Team and the then the Church Wardens. Early in January 2021 PCC took the difficult

decision not to reopen this congregation. We thank Clive and Angela Hall for the work they have done with the Burbank community Church over many years and supporting the remaining members of this congregation and the way in which they have encouraged them to integrate into the other services. Although that Sunday congregation has closed Clive remains the Community worker for the Burbank area and volunteer chaplain at Ward Jackson School. We do pray for a 'new thing' to emerge in 2021.

Finally I would like to thank Peter Anderson and Angela Craig our Church Wardens. Both have worked tirelessly in really trying circumstances this year. In particular I would like to thank Angela who has served 6 years as Church Warden and is now standing down. Thank you. In September Mother Gemma announced that she intends to move to Australia sometime in 2021. This does mean that as a parish and a group we will be moving into a time of significant transition in the coming year. As we move forward we do need to discern prayerfully where God is leading and how best to invest in the future. God is faithful, may he be glorified in our parish and our town.

In hope, grace and peace

Norman

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

All Saints, Stranton Church is situated in Church Row, Hartlepool TS24 7QT. It is part of the Diocese of Durham within the Church of England. The correspondence address is Stranton Church Office, St Matthew's Community Centre, Arncliffe Gardens Entrance, Hartlepool TS26 9JF.

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a charity excepted from registration with the Charity Commission

PCC members who have served from 1st January 2019 until the date this report was approved are:

Priest in Charge:	The Rev'd Norman Shave	Chairman
Wardens:	Mr Peter Anderson	
	Mrs Angela Craig	
Representatives on the Deanery Synod:		
	Mr Andrew Rogers	
	Mrs Sylvia Shepherd	
Elected members:		
	Mrs Maureen Anderson	Secretary
	Mrs Ann Courtenay	Resigned
	Mr David Craig	Treasurer
	Mrs Azam Chaichi	
	Mrs Diane Greenwood	
	Mr David House	
	Mrs Cheryl Mills	
	Mrs Lynda Parvin	
	Miss Mary Robinson	Resigned
	Mrs Jacqui Rogers	
	Mrs Mary Tones	
Ex-officio members:		
	Rev'd Michelle Delves	

Co-opted members:

Mr Clive Hall

The full PCC met five times during the year with an average level of attendance of 64%. Committees met between meetings and minutes of their deliberations were received by the full PCC and discussed where necessary.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All Church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

ELECTORAL ROLL

There are 97 parishioners on the Church Electoral Roll, parish. Nine names were removed and two names added during the year.

Ken Shepherd
Electoral Roll Officer

FINANCE REPORT

We thank God for his great generosity towards us in meeting our financial needs in 2020. The Church had an overall net surplus of £5,689 in 2020 (2019 - £4,760): however, this simple comparison does not bring out the huge challenges and changes that took place in both obvious and less obvious aspects of our church life and ministry, affecting the financial resources entrusted to us, and consequently the work we have been able to do as a Church. The Net surplus for the year represents £9,762 surplus on General Fund less £4,073 St Matthews Community Centre deficit which has been met from Community Centre Reserves.

In presenting the financial report on the Accounts for 2021 I would first like to record with gratitude the bequest of the late Margaret Lumley, who left in her will £35,563 for parish use without restriction. £23,000 of this bequest together with £12,000 in grants and previous years' gift day monies was applied in 2020 to the completion of the Accessibility works described in Revd Norman's Report. Of the £12,500 (or so) funds remaining from Margaret's bequest, £3,000 was used to offset the underlying deficit explained more fully below, and £9,500 has been carried forward to 2021 in the surplus on general fund, and is available to fund other developments. Margaret was a mainstay of this Church for the whole of her life and a supporter of wider Christian mission and ministry through her unfailingly generous commitment of time, gifts and giving: it is not just we who will miss her but the whole Christian Community, including the Society of St Francis, St Aidan's Church and the Mission to Seafarers among many others. In missing her, we also thank God for her life and witness, and the encouragement she gave to all whom she met.

Clearly the 2020 pandemic had a drastic effect on some aspects of our revenues. Community Centre income fell by 45% through lockdowns. Net fee income and Occasional Services offertory collapsed as weddings and baptisms were postponed into 2021 and the Burbank Community Church stopped meeting. Several of our regular members died and some have moved away, leading to some falls in regular giving. However, this reduction in income was offset by some generous "one-off" donations, a large element of which was specified as restricted funds to meet the costs of employment of our

staff - whom we did not “furlough” as they had much to do in new and different “Remote” ways to support the ministry team.

I would particularly like to thank those who continued to give in a planned and prayerful manner through Bank Standing orders and the Parish Giving scheme (PGS) and to those who were able to save up their weekly envelopes too. Without that bedrock of regular giving commitment and the uplifts many provided in response to difficult working conditions, we would have struggled financially: I encourage all who are not already members to consider joining the PGS – it can be done entirely confidentially and online!

In our expenditures, we met our agreed Parish share to the Diocese in full at £30,900 – about the only really predictable figure in all the circumstances of 2020! Some of our running costs such as heating lighting and general running costs were reduced because our buildings were closed and on standby for much of the year. Our stationery and print costs rose because of the enlarged weekly notices distribution and free circulation of Signpost.

Another big financial change during 2020 was the arrival of the Hartlepool Communities of Hope team, which Stranton Parish agreed to “Host” on behalf of the Group. Central church grant funding for the team via the Diocese of Durham and other income raised locally is “Ring fenced” as a restricted fund so has no direct impact on church finances, other than office rent paid to the St Matthew’s Community Centre. The grants received of £21,545 plus local income generated of £1,402 offset in full the costs of the team and their work.

To close my report - somewhat predictably, perhaps, but none the less whole heartedly - I would like to thank you for letting me join with you in all your generosity, and especially for the wise support and encouragement of Maureen Anderson as Assistant Treasurer, for the commitment and long service of Barbara Butcher as St Matthew’s Community Centre Treasurer, and to Ken Shepherd and the counting team for their unseen but vital support.

David Craig
Hon Treasurer, May 2021

BUILDING AND FABRIC OF THE CHURCH

The socket wiring in the former vicar’s vestry has been replaced (as requested in the fixed electrical inspection) with a new ring main as part of the Accessibility works. The electrical supply to enable projector and screen operation has not yet been finalised and approved by the church authorities. This will enable the under carpet wiring finally to be removed.

The lightning protector, burglar alarm, boiler, emergency lighting and fire extinguishers and electrical appliances have all been tested and serviced.

No work has been carried this year on the organ or furthering its refurbishment. It is hoped to proceed with this once working conditions return to more normality.

The vicar’s vestry has been moved into what was the choir vestry. It needs painting and decorating.

The new accessible toilet is now in use.

A firm has been employed to examine the rooves and guttering of the church and a small amount of remedial work is required and particularly high gutter cleaning.

A logbook is kept, and all alterations and repairs to the church are entered in it.

An inspection of articles belonging to the church (terrier) was satisfactorily completed in March.

A review of Fire risk assessment and Health and Safety policy were made during the year and adopted by the PCC.

Our thanks go to the many volunteers who have faithfully assisted in all the areas mentioned above and looked after the Church during these difficult times, including those acting as Vergers for Weddings/Funerals, and others who carried on cleaning, tidying and gardening.

Thanks go also to our assistant wardens Rohan Wanduragala and David House.

A major effort has been in place to distribute (by email or physically) the weekly notices and monthly signpost to as many of the congregation as possible; in line with GDPR consent and we especially thank Ian Walker and David Craig who helped with this.

Angela Craig, Peter Anderson
Churchwardens

HEALTH AND SAFETY REPORT

The church wardens attended health and safety and fire risk assessment training days organised by Ecclesiastical Insurance.

The policies concern the safety of people not the buildings. The church will (as employer of the Community of Hope project staff) employ five or more staff and is legally required to have a formally adopted health and safety policy. This is in addition to the health and safety risk assessments and action plans which have been and continue to be carried out annually.

Health and safety audits have been carried out by both churchwardens in March 2020 and 2021.

The principal remaining issue is cables under carpets, which needs to be resolved as part of our review of Audio-visual equipment.

The carpet in church is wearing in high use areas and we are increasingly using tape to secure joins. The carpet needs to be replaced, hopefully in the next year after the audio-visual project is completed.

Lighting to the rear path to church needs to be improved as the brewery lighting has not been repaired and is reduced.

We would thank David Craig, Peter, Mike Weimer and Rohan for assisting in repairing the entrance path and the base of the door to the church.

The kitchen vinyl needs patching by the sink.

Following advice for emergency use, we have placed a key for the west door next to it in a new “break glass” box.

Due to the current circumstances, we have not yet managed to carryout fire and emergency response training with the sides-persons, vergers and various group leaders who all need to act as fire wardens along with the Churchwardens. We wish to carry out this "emergency response" training after the APCM or as soon as possible in accordance with the regulations.

Angela Craig, Peter Anderson
Church Wardens

DEANERY SYNOD REPORT

As you may imagine, the Deanery Synod has been affected by the Covid restrictions and only held one face to face meeting; this was on 10th March, before the first lockdown. The subsequent synod on 17th November was held using Zoom.

During the March meeting Rev Dr Alan Prince from Cuthbert House talked about developing Lay Ministry and introduced a new national process and asked the Deanery to pray for and support anyone who feels "called" from their local congregations. Many other events, including visits to the Cathedral and local pilgrimages were planned, of course, subsequently to no avail. However, it was agreed to distribute monies from the Alderman Hogg trust to each of our church schools, each school receiving £200.

In the November meeting, the Community of Hope initiative was discussed along with the proposal to utilise Saint Aidan's House.

A feature of the Synod meetings has been a "We tried this" agenda item. This offers each parish to share and reflect on the outcomes of local initiatives and activities.

Finance is always on Synod's mind; particularly during the last year with the introduction of the new guided pledge parish share offer and the reduction in income from the occasional offices. However, the mood of Synod always tries to remain optimistic remembering that our God is a good and generous God and we need to show patience in waiting on His timing.

Andrew Rogers

SAFEGUARDING - CHILD AND VUNERABLE ADULT PROTECTION

This year has had its challenges regarding safeguarding in the church. As the majority of groups stopped meeting face to face, but have had some online presence. We continue to maintain good communication with Beth Miller (Diocesan safeguarding officer) whenever concerns arise.

Following safeguarding guidance from the diocese, Youth Fellowship began online in September. Meeting online has its own safeguarding risks, however an abundance of caution over online communication with young people (typically, via their parents) is mitigating for this as much as possible.

We continue to follow the Diocesan Safeguarding Policies, most recently updated in March 2021. The diocese also ask for the parish to complete a regular checklist to ensure we are meeting their expectations for good practice, this was last completed by the PCC in February 2021.

Fourteen people (both those working directly with children and young people, and those in positions of responsibility in the church) have completed the Diocesan safeguarding training this year – which is coordinated by Clive Hall.

There have been no major safeguarding incidents reported this year.

The PCC has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults).

Peter Hart

GATHERED WORSHIP IN STRANTON PARISH

There is a regular pattern of worship services across the parish, both weekly and monthly. The services are held in Church and St Matthew's Hall. Each service has its own characteristics. We hope and pray that there is something for those who have been part of a worshipping community for a long time and those attending for the first time. The pattern is summarised as follows –

Stranton Church

Sundays

9:00	Holy Communion	A quiet said service using traditional liturgy
11:00	Morning Worship (provision for all ages)	Each Sunday has a different characteristic. Generally the services are relaxed and welcoming including a mix of contemporary music and hymns. 1st and 3rd Sundays include communion 4th Sunday, Lighthouse is a good service to try if you are new to church, it includes welcomes for families wanting baptism.

St Matthew's Community Centre

4:00 third Sunday only	Messy Church	A service for families based around craft, story and sharing tea together

Wednesdays

10:00	Holy Communion	A said midweek communion in a more accessible venue.

WORSHIP TEAM

What a strange year we have had since Spring 2020. We were pleased that online worship has taken place during the Lockdowns when we were unable to meet in church. We are very grateful to all who have streamed services including recorded or live worship, particularly to Andy and Lucy for all their recording of songs for others to use and to Angela and Clive for their live worship.

We are so pleased to be back in church to worship together but with all the restrictions it has been frustrating that the congregation have not been allowed to sing. Thank you to Angela and Seth who have helped to lead worship when we were only allowed one singer.

Hannah has now relocated to the south and we are very thankful for her uplifting clarinet playing over the last 6 years. It's been wonderful to welcome Jeni in her place with her beautiful harmonies. Gradually as restrictions lift group members are returning to swell the sound and we look forward to the time when we will all be able to lift our voices to God together

Julie Shave

BURBANK COMMUNITY CHURCH and YOUTH, CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Burbank Community Church

The numbers of attendees at Burbank Church has been an ongoing concern for us for a while. We have been thinking for over 2 years if we should close or keep going. With the Covid lockdown we simply could not meet together in school. We were also warned that in school they had designated bubble areas which meant we would not be allowed back into School Hall even when school was open again. Taking all this into consideration we had discussion with Church members over Zoom. We had meeting as a Burbank Leadership Team with Norman present in the meeting. We had a 24 hour Prayer time to seek God guidance. We all felt that the time was right to close the Burbank Church. We had further discussion with Church Wardens and then with the PCC. It was agreed that Burbank Community Church would close. I and the church members were saddened that this had to happen, but also sensed God was guiding us into making this happen.

I have been a part of the clergy team that has been taking the On Line services on Sundays and midweek reflections and night Prayer. This has been quite a learning curve in the last year. Plus with lots of meetings on Zoom it had been a time of getting to grips with Technology.

I have enjoyed taking the Sunday services in Stranton and St Luke's Church recently. It is so good to have a live audience and a nodding head. I am particularly looking forward to being able to sing again in church.

Overseer for Youth, Children and Family work

There has not been much opportunity to become a volunteer in church in the last year so not much to report here, but with the light at the end of the tunnel and a date of 21st June getting nearer. When we do start church and youth groups again there might be a need for volunteers. There is a volunteer recruitment process which I will guide volunteers through. Just let me know if you are interested in volunteering in church.

Bridge Builders

This is normally held in Burbank Community Centre. When lock down started we stopped meeting. We are unsure about the future of this group because the Burbank Community Centre then became a kitchen that makes meals for people who are struggling and the centre is not open to the public yet.

Ward Jackson School

Angela continues to work at Ward Jackson School she is a Thrive practitioner there.

I am now the Chaplain of the School; I meet with parents at the school gates and talk to people in the playground while they wait for children to come out of school. I used to have meals with the children but due to their strict rules on not mixing bubbles I have not restarted this.

This term will see me restarting Worships on line with them, and will continue to help support staff by going into classes and talking in their RE Lessons.

Personal News

I was encouraged to attend the Candidates Panel. I did attend the panel on the 18th September 2020 and I passed it. This means that when I finish my training has a priest towards the end of May

this Year. I would now be able to apply for a role of significant responsibility. (Run a church somewhere)

I will meet with Bishop Sarah on the 10th May to discuss if I have passed my final independent review and a discussion on what my future holds from the end of May. I will of course keep people informed out all these outcomes as they come up.

I would like to thank-you all for your support in the roles I have in the church and especially in my journey towards becoming a Priest. I really do appreciate your prayers and encouragements.

Reverend Clive Hall

STRANTON TODDLER GROUP

Due to the Covid pandemic, Toddlers stopped meeting in mid-March last year. I decided to keep in touch with our families delivering a 15-minute song and story time on-line every Tuesday morning through to July. This was well received but numbers were very low by the end of term.

In January, Jess (Communities of Hope) started Tea and Hope on zoom for families with young children at home. She taught some Macaton signs, told a bible story and led a short craft session and I led a short singing time. It was lovely to reconnect with a few families from Toddlers and one or two others. She decided to stop the sessions at the end of the Spring term.

Although St Matthews Community centre has recently re-opened, we have decided not to resume sessions this term due to all the continuing restrictions of social distancing and wearing of masks, cleaning equipment and keeping everyone safe.

However, we have begun to meet up weekly in Ward Jackson Park for a walk, play and natter. It has been great to catch up with parents and childminders and to see the children enjoying playing together and benefiting from the fresh air.

We look forward to getting back to normal as soon as it is safe to do so.

Julie Shave

MESSY CHURCH

Due to the Covid pandemic, Messy Church has not met since February 2020 and we have really missed our gatherings with the families who were part of Messy Church.

Through the summer term I delivered a Messy Church session live on Facebook every Sunday afternoon with a bible story, song, prayer and craft ideas. As there was reduced interest later in the term, I decided not resume the sessions in September. In December Norman and I did a Christingle session, delivering Christingle packs to families who requested them and Kate assisted in delivering packs to the Sunday Club families. This was very well received.

Kate began to film some brilliant online Sunday Club videos in January with a bible story and follow up crafts and activities and I have shared these to the Messy Church Facebook page for families to enjoy.

We very much look forward to meeting up as Messy Church as soon as it is safe to do so.

Julie Shave

SUNDAY CLUB

Unfortunately, due to the covid-19 pandemic Sunday Club has not been able to operate in its usual manner. However, the church has worked hard to ensure that there were resources available for our young people.

In March 2020 when lockdown started and churches were closed, I created a virtual Sunday Club which involved emails being sent out which included a bible reading and some activities for children that could be completed independently, as well as an additional activity that needed adult support. The emails covered various themes including Creation, Jesus' Parables, Psalms as well as special calendar days such as Earth day and VE day. In total almost 60 emails were sent out to ten different families between March and July in the absence of Sunday Club. The emails seemed to be well received and some of the children even contributed to a Signpost article about which activities they had enjoyed completing during lockdown.

In September 2020 the Sunday Club team worked hard to reopen the Sunday Club on a biweekly basis but unfortunately due to a high increase in infection numbers it was decided that the Sunday Club could not reopen until the infection rates had decreased. This saw to the return of weekly emails being sent out to some of our families.

At Christmas the Sunday Club children received Christmas presents and Christingle Kits. The Christmas gifts included sweets, a bible colouring bookmark and a bible themed jotter pad. The children were very excited to receive their presents. In addition to this the Sunday Club also created small Christingle kits which included all the materials needed to create a Christingle at home with Julie kindly filming an online Christingle service for the children to participate in from home.

In January 2021 and with the return of another lockdown I decided to create weekly videos that could be posted on the church website and the Sunday Club Facebook page to provide a resource for our children and families to use. These videos include a bible story, short talk and some craft activities that the children can try at home. These videos have been well received and have included some fun activities including baking, decoding hieroglyphics, an animal quiz, painting, drawing and even making salt dough. These videos will continue on a weekly basis until August 2021. A huge thank you to David and Paul for creating and facilitating the uploading of the videos online.

During Easter 2021 the children received Easter gift bags which included an Easter egg, craft activity set, colouring pages and an Easter Nest Cake Kit. Ten families received these gift bags and 18 children received an Easter egg. Some of the children also contributed to a Signpost article about their Easter gift bags. They enjoyed taking part.

Kate Lawson
Sunday Club Leader

YOUTH FELLOWSHIP
SEEING THE WORLD IN NEW WAYS

YF is a space for fellowship, prayer, Bible study, fun, and silly games. Each term we have had a main theme or focus interspersed with other one-off themes. The group has changed with Covid 19 we have had to adapt to the situation and have done this by using zoom to run YF online.

Rachel has been a great addition to our team. We still play games and eat together and have a great bible thought. We have covered Easter, community, and separation which we used the woman at the well, Jonah and the people with leprosy and how we can relate due to Covid and how to meet

God in this. We have been blessed to be able to have the girls in Germany on zoom for our YF sessions. We also attended the Durham diocese youth event by zoom and some of our youth did videos about how they have felt during the pandemic. We are prayerfully looking forward and risk assessing for future possible meetings in person.

YF Leadership Team

Rainbows

2020 started well with science experiments and a first aid badge but then everything stopped. Some girls only managed a couple of meetings before our first lockdown and some have joined without ever meeting us, others are just waiting to start and many have moved on to Brownies without us saying goodbye.

Our lovely group has changed and we don't really know each other just now. So this and our very high numbers mean we have too many to be able to meet together safety but we are sending out activities to do at home.

After a successful appeal we have a new experienced and wonderful new leader ready to take up the challenge of Rainbows as soon as we are up and running again.

We look forward to a new beginning soon and have our programme all planned up to Christmas.

Christine Robinson
Rainbows Leader

Stranton Brownies & Guides

2020, what a strange year! Everything that can be said about it – has been said.

In January, we were offered the opportunity of a new Leader for Guides, wonderful news and the best news is Gill has stuck with us! She managed meeting in the hall until the 16th March, we had already decided we were not going to meet in the hall for a while, which maybe a year and half before we meet face to face outside. We were then offered a new Leader for Brownies, just 2 weeks before that last meeting, unfortunately she has struggled with the situation but we may see her again.

We decided to see if Zoom would work for Brownies and Guides, the first meeting being on the 27th April, a huge learning curve for the girls and Leaders. We had the 40mins system which made meetings very precarious as never sure whether we had enough planned, often cut off in the middle of things, no proper end to the meeting. We continued every week. The last meeting being on the 3rd August when we had a virtual meeting on the beach with games.

We returned on the 7th September, Girlguiding had provided licences for zoom, so meeting lengths were not a problem. Brownies was an hour from 6pm and Guides from 7.15pm, it was great to be able to have a proper end to the meeting but we have learnt singing has many, many problems.

We were offered the opportunity of another Leader, a brave person joining on Zoom. Sarah-Jane has been a great asset to Brownies and as a result her daughter has joined the pack.

We have had several Brownies join during the year, most have continued, a few have stated they will continue once we are back face to face.

If we look at what has happened during the year, there have been many ups and down, positives and negatives. Hopefully, we are all stronger, we have missed the interaction with the girls; there was definitely a huge difference between the meetings on the first lockdown to the second, when the girls were on zoom for school, we had more drop out till we meet again face to face.

We are hoping, depending on the data etc, to meet outside from mid-June 2021.

We are hoping we have supported individual girls during this last year as a Brownie and a Guide lost a father due to Cancer and we have had a Guide's father die suddenly this year. It has been hard (as we all know) to help provide support for these girls but we are always there for them.

Looking forward, we are hoping to start meeting with the Brownies and Guides, outside from the 21st June but will depend on what is happening in the roadmap we are following out of lockdown

Cheryl Mills
(Leader with Brownies & Guides)

4th Hartlepool Boys Brigade
Founded 1930

Boys Brigade, like all groups has been hit by the pandemic and during non-meeting times we kept in contact with members via Easter Egg drop offs, Christmas treats, booklet challenges and drawings

We have lost two camps and had to re-jig our programmes

The positives are, we now have a selection of challenges and games to play in each section which we would not have thought about in normal times. 2metre rules helps our juniors judge distances better when marching.

The Company section and Junior boys have returned to the meetings and we have a high number of very regular attendees

We need to recruit anchor boys, member numbers are down - it takes a while for boys and families to get the habit of regular attendance.

Staff - we have kept all our leaders and hope to train our NCO's up so they are ready to keep the Company running in the years to follow.

Financially - we have received donations and grants so we have managed to improve and restock our equipment during the pandemic

Finally we would like to thank Carol Laud for all her support during the pandemic

George Bainbridge
Leader in Charge, 4th Hartlepool Boys Brigade

PASTORAL GROUP

On the pastoral front, as with everything else, this year has been a year like no other. Unable to make our usual visits, the pastoral team have moved to telephone contact, making sure that everyone has everything they need and providing emotional support and, where needed, practical help such as shopping. We have widened our net to include those who would normally be able to get to church, but have been prevented from doing so, whether by lockdown or because they have been shielding. Our aim has been not only to provide support, but to maintain our links with those who, in many cases housebound, are particularly vulnerable to isolation, and to help them to continue to feel included in our church family. Some of them have taken advantage of the streamed services, which has been a bonus for both those who would normally attend church and those who have not been able to attend services for some time. We have all admired their stoicism and courage through the vicissitudes of the last year and, as always, have much to learn from them.

As part of our support strategy, we delivered Christmas cards and a small gift, followed by Easter cards and Easter eggs. This also gave us the opportunity to knock on doors and see people in person. We are now looking forward to being able to re-start our visits and provide home communion to those who want it.

There have been some changes to our team, which now consists of Steph Boyd (who completed her Pastoral Care course), Ian Walker, Rohan Wanduragala, Diana Wanduragala (associate member), myself and Mary Tones, who is a welcome new addition. We also acquired a new leader at the start of the pandemic when Norman delegated to Michelle the job of overseeing the pastoral work of the church. We have continued to have regular meetings, on Zoom, and have kept in contact by telephone.

As we move on, we are looking to expand into bereavement support and would welcome new members to our team to continue our important and very rewarding work.

Pam Stockton

MOTHERS` UNION REPORT

Due to Covid we have been unable to meet together for over a year now. I've managed to distribute M.U. news and other paper work etc to Stranton members and tried to keep them up to date when I hear from M.U. Durham lead.

When we get the all clear from M.U. Durham it's also clear to return to St Mathew's Community Centre we can get back together again

We are now 15 members after the sad death of Hilary Harkness last September. Hilary was a lovely lady and is sadly missed. She enjoyed being with us and was a wonderful example to us all - and she made us laugh.

One of our members was blue-lighted with Covid to North Tees Hospital and was quite ill. She is much better now and is being careful where she goes shopping and keeps social distancing.

2021 has been a waiting year, waiting for news about when we could be vaccinated, waiting for when we could meet up with other families, waiting to come out of lockdown, being told how to go shopping safely and so on.

We are looking forward to meeting together again, to catch up with each other's news and to worship and pray for the work of Mothers' Union throughout the world.

God Bless
Ann Courtenay
Branch Leader

BELLRINGING REPORT

With the pandemic outbreak of the Covid 19 virus, government restrictions on group meetings, the continuance and the subsequent waves of the virus, in the last year has resulted in very little tower bell ringing activity. Because the Hartlepool ringers have strong bonds and friendship, they have regularly shared discussions, jokes and Radio 4's "Bells on Sunday" on line, mainly via the medium of WhatsApp. Some ringers have taken advantage of a newly developed ringing computer application, "Ringing Room" which allows ringers to meet others virtually and practice ringing with them from the comfort of their own homes.

In October, 2020, the PCC commissioned two firms of bellhangers, Taylors of Loughborough and Whites of Appleton, to carry out surveys of the bells, their fittings and supporting structures. The companies were asked to report on conditions and to make recommendations for work as well as to provide quotations for the recommended works. The bells have become a little challenging to ring and with the passage of time, parts have become worn. Environmental conditions have affected both the tone and tuning of the bells.

Both companies were able to identify a number of changes that could be made to the bells to improve their ringability and to make them more tuneful. Some of the items of improvement were identified as being required immediately, whereas, others were identified to be beneficial to prevent works in the future. The PCC studied the reports, and, after further enquiries, were able to select one of the companies to carry out works as soon as possible. A Faculty application is being prepared and there has been great progress to raise the necessary funds from donations and grants.

It is expected that if Covid restrictions become relaxed sufficiently in the near future, Sunday service ringing will be able to return, prior to the commencement of works.

Andrew Kaye
Tower Captain

ST MATTHEW'S COMMUNITY CENTRE ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT

As with everywhere and everyone else 2020 has been a strange year at St Matthew's. The centre closed at the end of March 2020, along with almost everything else in the country due to the government restrictions imposed because of the covid-19 pandemic. When these restrictions were eased we opened again to small groups for a short spell in June before another closure, and then again in September before closing in November until the end of 2020. The building has just recently reopened to restricted groups as part of step 2 of the government's road map to recovery.

However, during the summer last year we were successful in negotiating 2 new long term contracts for St Matthew's. One with the Probation Service and the other with the Communities of Hope team. As both of these contracts are work related they were allowed to use the building under the guidelines issued by Public Health England. Both contracts started in September 2020.

In December 2020 we said a reluctant farewell to our long standing Treasurer Barbara Butcher. Barbara's vision and hard work and prolific fundraising have been an inspiration to many of us at St Matthew's and we will miss her very much. So thank you Barbara.

We don't know what 2021 may bring but we are cautiously optimistic and we will be ready to run when the traps open.

Carol Laud
St Matthew's Community Centre Management

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish

of

All Saints, Stranton

Charity Registration Number 1134753

Accounts for the year to 31 December 2020

Independent Examiner's Certificate for Stranton PCC Accounts: Charity Number: 1134753

I report to the trustees of: All Saints Stranton Parochial Church Council on accounts for the year ended 31 December 2020

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act), and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

Independent examiner's statement:

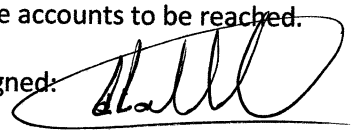
My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the following requirements have not been met:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act;
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with
- the accounting requirements of the Charities Act;
- to account for statutory fees correctly.

2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:  Date: 28 April 2020

Name: Clive Rathbone

(Hon. Treasurer, Castle Eden Methodist Circuit)

Address: 59 Claremont Drive Hartlepool TS26 9PE

All Saints Stranton Parochial Church Council

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 December 2020

Incoming resources	Note:	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	TOTAL 2020	FUNDS 2019
Incoming resources from donors	2a	67,058	1,402	-	68,461	84,478
Other voluntary incoming resources	2b	45,474	50,512	-	95,986	19,739
Income from charitable and ancillary trading	2c	9,494	-	-	9,494	22,398
Other ordinary incoming resources	2d	0	-	-	0	3,481
Income from investments	2e	256	-	-	256	227
Total incoming resources		122,281	51,915	-	174,196	130,323
Resources Expended						
Grants to Home and overseas mission and other charities	3a	5,585	-	-	5,585	8,527
Activities Directly relating to the work of the Church	3b	92,297	51,915	-	144,212	100,485
Fund Raising and Publicity	3c	-	-	-	-	-
Church Management and Administration	3d	18,711	-	-	18,711	16,551
Total resources Expended		116,593	51,915	-	168,508	125,563
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources: Hall £(4,073): Church £9,763		5,689	0	-	5,689	4,760
Other Net Gains/losses:		-	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		**5,689**	**0**	**-**	**5,689**	**4,760**
Balances Brought Forward at 1 January 2020		112,336	95,236	9,360	216,932	212,172
Balances Carried Forward at 31 December 2020		118,025	95,236	9,360	222,620	216,932

All Saints Stranton Parochial Church Council

Statement of Financial Position at 31 December 2020	Note:	**2020**	**2019**
Fixed Assets			
Tangible fixed Assets	5a	185,684	186,485
Investment Assets	5b	-	-
		185,684	186,485
Current Assets			
Debtors and prepaid expenses	7	33,833	16,443
Short Term Deposits		406	404
Cash at Bank and in Hand		37,653	44,661
		71,893	61,508
Liabilities: Amounts falling due within one year	8	-34,956	-31,061
Net Current (Liabilities)/ Assets		36,937	30,447
Net Assets		222,620	216,932
Funds:	6,9		
Unrestricted reserves (see below)		118,025	112,336
Restricted reserves (Accommodation Buildings and Organ fund)		95,235	95,235
Endowment reserves		9,360	9,360
Total Reserves		222,620	216,932

Approved by resolution of the Parochial Church Council, dated 27 April 2021

Rev'd. Canon Norman Shave (Chairman)

Mr David Craig (Hon. Treasurer)

All Saints Stranton Parochial Church Council Year to 31 December 2020

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year ended 31 December 2020

Note 1 - Accounting policies

1a) Basis of Preparation
These Accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention, as modified by the revaluation of certain assets. They have been prepared to meet the requirements of the Church Accounting Regulations 2011 together with applicable Accounting Standards, the Charities Acts 2011 and 2016 and Statements of Recommended Practice. They have been prepared on an accruals basis to match income and related expenditure relating to the year under review. The statements include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible. Financial statements for various Church related activities or groups for which the PCC is not responsible are not included. Subsidiary Financial statements for activities of the Church Hall and Magazine which are consolidated in these Accounts are available separately. The Accounts do not include the activities of Trust Funds held and administered for the benefit of the PCC by the Diocese of Durham, except so far as income has been received from those funds.

1b) Fixed Assets
Fixed Assets are stated at cost: freehold land and buildings are not depreciated as in the view of the PCC the effect of depreciation of these assets would not be material to an appreciation of the PCC's financial position. Office and computer equipment furniture and fixtures are depreciated using a straight line method over a period (generally 4-5 years) estimated to reflect the useful economic life of the Assets.

1c) Investments
Investments are revalued annually and carried at the lower of realisable and current market value, the difference between cost and carrying value is recorded in a revaluation reserve where the value is greater than original cost: a provision is made for each investment asset for which the market value is less than its original cost. Reserves and provisions are not netted off.

1d) Stocks
Inventory is stated at the lower of cost and net realisable value and written off as expenditure when issued.

1e) Debtors
Amounts receivable are stated at the value prudently expected to be realised. Full or partial provision is made for bad or doubtful debts as soon as they become apparent.

1f) Liabilities, Provisions, deferred income and capital grants
Full estimates are made of income received in advance and liabilities incurred in the course of the PCC's Activities, and provision made in compliance with current relevant Financial Reporting Standards.

1g) Pensions
Paid Parish workers who are not remunerated by the Diocese of Durham are members of the Defined Contribution Scheme operated by B&CE, this scheme complies with the national legal requirements for workplace pensions.

All Saints Stranton Parochial Church Council

Statement of Cash Flows for the year ended 31 December 2020

	2020 Total	2020 Unrestricted	2020 Restricted	*2019 Total*
Operating activities				
Operating surplus / 2019	5,689	5,689	0	*4,760*
add items not involving movement of funds: Depreciatio	801	801		*801*
Increase/(Decrease) in Creditors	3,896	3,896		*-66,057*
(Increase)/Decrease in Debtors	-17,391	-17,391		*3,211*
Cash generated from operations	-7,005	-7,005	0	***-57,285***
Capital Cash released from deferred revenue	0		0	*80,000*
Cash (utilised) in investing activities				*-88,267*
Cash movements from Operating and Investing activities	**-7,005**	**-7,005**	**0**	**-65,552**
Represented by:				
Church Current account increased (Decreased) balances	-2,835	-2,835	0	*17,019*
Hall Current Account (decreased) balance	-4,083	-4,083		*-82,568*
Deposit account increase in balance	3	3		*2*
Increase (Decrease) in hall cash balances	10	10		*-5*
Increase (Decrease) in church cash balances	-100	-100		
Net Movement in liquid balances	**-7,005**	**-7,005**	**0**	**-65,552**

All Saints Stranton Parochial Church Council

Notes to the Financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2020

Heading **2 Incoming resources**	Analysis	**Unrestricted Funds**	**Restricted Funds**	**Endowment Funds**	**TOTAL 2020**	**FUNDS 2019**
2a Incoming resources from donors						
Planned Giving		unrestricted	restricted	Endowment	total	
Gift Aided		50,914	-	-	50,914	70,615
Income Tax recoverable on Gift Aid inc donations		12,729	-	-	12,729	17,654
other income tax recoverable		0	-	-	0	2,628
other Voluntary giving		2,578	-	-	2,578	9,365
Other collections		838	-	-	838	5,184
Gift Day(2019 - £6027, less £4,000 deferred for access works)		-	-	-	0	2,027
Communities of Hope - Other income		-	1,402	-	1,402	-
		67,058	1,402	-	68,461	107,473
2b Other voluntary incoming resources						
Grants - not including Capital Grants		3,156	8,110	-	11,266	248
Communities of Hope - SDF funding via Diocese		-	21,546	-	-	
Appeals etc		-	-	-	-	-
Legacies and Donations,		41,149	16,956	-	58,105	8,669
Income tax recoverable on Gift Aided Donations		1,100	3,900	-	5,000	2,000
Fundraising		68.49	-	-	68	0
		45,474	50,512	-	95,986	10,917
2c Income from Charitable and ancillary Trading						
Magazines and book sales		409			409	401
Lettings (Halls etc) net of internal recharge		8,586			8,586	15,054
Fees		101			101	7,385
Sundry income:		398			398	1,046
		9,494	-	-	9,494	23,886
2d Other ordinary incoming resources						
Diocesan contribution to Area Dean/secretarial costs		-	-	-	-	-
Insurance claims		-			-	-
		-	-	-	-	-
2e Income from investments						
Dividends, interest and bonuses, Gross		256	-	-	256	126
Total Incoming Resources:		122,281	51,915	-	174,196	142,402

All Saints Stranton Parochial Church Council

Notes to the Financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2020

3. Resources Expended	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	**TOTAL 2020**	**FUNDS 2019**
3a Grants made					
Missionary and Charitable Giving					
Overseas missionary societies (Crosslinks & CMS)	4,500	-	-	4,500	6,710
Relief & development agencies	-	-	-	-	-
Home misssions and other Church Societies	1,085	-	-	1,085	2,456
	5,585	0	-	5,585	9,166
3b Activities directly related to the work of the Church					
Ministry:					
Parish Share	30,900	-	-	30,900	58,500
Communities of Hope Hartlepool Staff costs	-	16,673	-	16,673	-
Communities of Hope Hartlepool other operating costs	-	6,276		6,276	-
Staff expenses	1,951	-	-	1,951	1,050
Property costs - staff accommodation	993	-	-	993	2,596
Church running expenses, excl hall recharge	11,940	1,356	-	13,296	9,422
Church repairs and maintenance	30,545	8,110	-	38,656	1,549
Training	2,955	-	-	-	90
Ministry costs excluding Pay cost -Burbank, Youth and families \	4,028	-	-	4,028	6,975
Magazine - costs included in Stationery	0	-	-	-	-
Church hall running costs	6,421	-	-	6,421	12,867
Professional fees,surveys etc - 2019 - IN "REPAIRS", 2020 cap	-	-	-	-	-
Parish lay worker remuneration	2,564	19,500	-	22,064	23,261
Cost of parish events	-	-	-	-	1,310
	-	-	-	-	-
	92,297	51,915	-	141,257	117,620
3c Fundraising and publicity					
costs associated with generating funds	-	-	-	-	-
3c Fundraising and publicity	-	-	-	-	-
3d Church management and administration					
Administrator remuneration incl pension contribution, and expens	13,565	-	-	13,565	11,930
Stationery and printing	1,502	-	-	1,502	1,268
Hall overhead	2,493	-	-	2,493	2,064
Depreciation equipment & computers	801	-	-	801	801
Bank Charges	351	-	-	351	487
Legal property transaction and admin costs incl Deanery.	-	-	-	-	-
	18,711	-	-	18,711	16,551
Total Resources Expended:	116,593	51,915	-	165,553	143,337

All Saints Stranton Parochial Church Council

Notes to the Financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2020

4. Staff costs

Clergy stipends are paid by the Diocese: all other remuneration shown under note 3b and 3d was paid to the Parish lay worker, parish administrat and from October 2020 to three staff working on behalf of the Central Hartlepool Group of Parishes in the Communities of Hope Hartlepool project by the Diocese of Durham, and include social security costs and pension contributions made under a defined benefit scheme operated by B&CE

5. Fixed Assets

Note: £35,000 "Repairs" to the church building in 2020 included accessibility works and new toilet and servery: these works have not been capitali

5a Tangible fixed Assets

		Freehold Land And Buildings	Equipment, fixtures and computers	TOTAL
Gross book value	At 1 January 2020	178,551	32,338	210,889
	Revaluations	-	-	-
	Disposals	-	-	-
	Additions	-	-	-
	Capital Grants applied	-		-
	At 31 December 2020	178,551	32,338	210,889
Depreciation	At 1 January 2020		24,404	24,404
	Disposals		-	-
	Charge for the year		801	801
	At 31 December 2020		25,205	25,205
Net Book Value	**At 31 December 2020**	**178,551**	**7,133**	**185,684**
	At 31 December 2019	**178,551**	**7,934**	**185,684**

Freehold land and buildings comprise St Matthew's Community Hall, and staff house accommodation at 10 Clarkson Court

Other Tangible Fixed assets are amortised over periods estimated to reflect their economic lives from the date of acquisition, generally 4 to 5 years. Assets scrapped/sold are disposals

The Church building is not included in the statement of financial position as it has no historic cost record. Church buildings are insured for reinstatement costs

5b Investments:

The PCC does not directly hold any investments but receives income from certain designated trust funds held by Durham Diocese

6 Analysis of net assets by fund

	Jnrestrictec Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2020	Total 2019
Fixed Assets	100,000	85,683		185,684	186,485
Current Assets	52,981	9,552	9,360	71,893	61,508
Current Liabilities	-34,956			-34,956	-31,061
	118,025	95,235	9,360	222,620	216,932

7 Debtors:

	2020	2019
Tax Recoverable	15,890	13,624
other debtors/receivables	17,943	2,819
	33,833	16,443

8. Liabilities - amounts falling due within one year:

	2020	2019
Accruals and deferred income	14,334	4,402
Creditors for goods and services	0	1,184
Other Provision: mission support	8,000	8,000
Deferred grant and restricted income:	12,622	16,600
Other creditors: Tax and NIC	0	874
	34,956	31,061

9 :Funds

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Endowment	Total 2020	2019
Unrestricted and Reastricted Capital (Buildings) reserves	42,292	85,683		127,975	127,975
Unrestricted - St Matthew's Hall Management Committee	52,448			52,448	56,521
Unrestricted - General Fund:	23,286			23,286	13,524
Restricted: Organ Fund £7,552 and Restoration Bequest £2,000		9,552		9,552	9,552
Endowment funds			9,360	9,360	9,360
	118,025	95,235	9,360	222,620	216,932